MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Status of Negotiations -- Israeli officials "close" to the recent talks in Washington said the U.S. Administration's new proposals are reasonable and could be the basis for an arrangement with Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported on 17 March. However, Israel has made it clear to the United States that an agreement will not be reached unless "free Lebanon" commander Major Sa'd Haddad is integrated into the security arrangements. Earlier, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spoke of a "certain closing of the gaps" in the U.S. and Israeli positions regarding an IDF presence in Lebanon and normalization, but he admitted that differences of opinion remain on some topics, according to remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport on his return to Israel, Shamir also affirmed that Israel has "absolutely no intention of or interest in extending the IDF stay in Lebanon in order to gain any kind of political benefit or profit in any sort of area."

After former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam's meeting with President Reagan, Salam and Foreign Minister Elie Salim telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil, who briefed his Cabinet on the atmosphere of the Lebanese-U.S. talks in Washington, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the talks in Netanya scheduled for 17 March have been postponed until 21 March.

Soldatov Remarks, Israeli Reaction -- According to Voice of Hope radio, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov told President al-Jumayyil that if war breaks out again between Israel and Syria, the Soviet Union will intervene and that the Soviet intervention will be "sizeable." The radio reported that after his 16 March meeting with Al-Jumayyil Soldatov told newsmen that the question of Soviet intervention in the event of a Syrian-Israeli war is "hypothetical," but that if such a war occurs, "we will intervene." Although both Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported on the Soldatov-Al-Jumayyil meeting, neither quoted him as saying the Soviet Union would intervene in the event of a Syrian-Israeli war.

A senior Israeli source cited by MA'ARIV on 17 March said Soldatov's statements, "according to which the USSR will intervene if a war breaks out between Israel and Syria," are aimed at creating a "panic atmosphere" and are the first official expression of the deepening Soviet involvement in Syria and of the Soviet Union's "direct intervention" in Lebanon. Israel expects the United States to act against the Soviet challenge, the spokesman added.

Security Situation -- Two IDF officers were killed when their vehicle hit a mine east of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. The Lebanese National Resistance Front claimed reponsibility for the attack, asserting that the Israeli vehicle was destroyed by RPG fire, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. Italian multinational force troops near Beirut airport opened fire at a suspicious vehicle early on 17 March, wounding the driver, Beirut radio noted. Earlier, the radio cited an AFP report that the "Islamic Struggle Organization" has claimed responsibility for the 16 March attack on a U.S. patrol in the area. Lebanese Army units meanwhile detained 340 suspects in connection with the recent attacks on U.S. and Italian forces, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

The "National Front for the Liberation of Lebanon" claimed that its forces killed or wounded 10 of Major Haddad's militia in an attack south of Jazzin, according to the Voice of Arab Lebanon. In another incident in the south, IDF soldiers fired in the air to disperse a demonstration in Sidon by Palestinian refugees calling for the release of detainees from Ansar camp, Jerusalem radio reported. Three girls were wounded and four youths were arrested.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad held talks with Jimmy Carter on Middle East developments and the "factors" Syria views as necessary for the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the region, Damascus television reported. A Damascus radio commentary asserted that although Carter is not in Syria on an official visit, the visit by a former U.S. president whose name is linked with the Camp David accords and whose purpose is to conduct talks with senior officials in the region cannot be a "tourist or private factfinding visit." The radio declared that despite Carter's stand during his presidency Syria will listen to what he has to say and will tell him what it has to say. Syria has never been "an introvert" and has never avoided dialogue or the exchange of opinions, the radio asserted.

Jordan

King Husayn arrived in Bonn for a brief working visit during which he will meet FRG President Karl Carstens and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Amman radio announced.

Saudi Arabia

The paper AN-NADWAH said it is pointless for Jordan to negotiate with the United States since the Israeli defense minister has made it "quite clear" that Israel will never stop building new settlements in the West Bank, SPA reported. The paper added that repeated invitations to Jordan to join the Camp David accords suggest only that Israel is hatching "a new conspiracy."

Israel

New Party -- The formation of a new religious party, Matzad, headed by National Religious Party (NRP) member Hayim Druckman, was announced during a meeting in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio added that Druckman will subsequently resign from the NRP and the new party will compete in both the Knesset and local elections.

Trade Talks With Egypt -- Talks in Cairo between Israeli and Egyptian commercial delegations have ended, Jerusalem radio announced. Avraham Asheri, director of the Israeli Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said he is "absolutely confident" that these talks will soon have "genuine results" while the head of the Egyptian delegation expressed "optimism" over the results of the meetings, the radio added.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Tunis for a "surprise visit" to North Yemen, KUNA disclosed. According to "reliable Palestinian sources," 'Arafat will inspect Palestinian forces in San'a' and discuss the PNC decision to unify all revolutionary forces in the Palestine Liberation Army, KUNA added.

Libya

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud arrived in the Soviet Union and was met at the airport by Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Tikhonov, Tripoli radio reported.

Kuwait

During a KUNA interview Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah stated that the United States decided to prohibit Kuwait from prospecting for oil and gas on U.S. federal lands because there are no "concessions" for U.S. companies to prospect for oil in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that the dispute between Kuwait and the United States is "minor and purely legal."

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AMMAN WEEKLY PREDICTS MINISUMMIT IN RIYADH

JN170920 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 17 Mar 83 p 28

[Text] Arab sources in Tunis have mentioned that an Arab minisummit will be held in Riyadh upon the return from London of the Arab seven-member committee led by His Majesty King Husayn. His majesty the king is expected to brief the summit on the outcome of his talks with British officials and their position toward the Arab peace plan.

The sources added that the summit will draw up a plan for the Arab move in the coming stage and that the summit will comprise the leaders of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria, and the PLO. The 3-day summit will also embark upon taking collective initiatives to solve inter-Arab differences and restore Arab solidarity to confront all challenges facing the Arab nation. The summit, according to the sources, will form a followup committee to implement the resolutions expected to be adopted by the minisummit.

As for the Iraq-Iran war, the sources explained that the summit will entrust Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid with a new mediation mission to stop the war. The summit will make a new appeal to Iran to stop the war and begin negotiations with Iraq.

The sources said the Arab League will carry out intensive moves to create an appropriate atmosphere for holding the summit.

'ARAFAT TO CHAIR PLO MEETING IN YAR

GF161948 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A Palestinian source reported that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, will chair the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee next Thursday to distribute the missions to the members. Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Tunis yesterday from New Delhi after participating in the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference.

KUNA Report

LD161855 Kuwait KUNA in English 1654 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 16 (KUNA) -- PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat left Wednesday on a surprise visit to North Yemen while [as received] he is expected to head a meeting for the PLO Executive Committee here Thursday. Reliable Palestinian sources told KUNA that the chairman will inspect the Palestinian forces in San'a' (?and) confer with their leaders. The discussion will tackle the Palestine National Council's decision to unify all revolutionary forces in the Palestine Liberation Army, the sources added.

AMMAN DAILY INTERVIEWS 'ARAFAT ADVISER SHAQQUR

JN161200 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Mar 83 pp 1, 14

[Lima Nabil dispatch]

[Text] Amman, AR-RA'Y -- Yasir 'Arafat's adviser 'Imad Shaqqur has said that the Jordanian-Palestinian stance is good, cohesive, and harmonious. He added that the PNC has emphasized the positive nature of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and approved the establishment of an independent Palestinian state that is confederally linked with Jordan.

He said that the Palestinian stand is represented by the PLO, which is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative in accordance with the recommendations of the Arab summit conference in Rabat in 1974. However, he said, this does not mean that as Palestinians we do not ask the Arab leaders to talk about the Palestinian people's rights in the international forums. We, he said, accept any delegation in which the PLO is represented in an official or popular manner. This could be a Jordanian, Palestinian, or any other Arab delegation in which the PLO is represented although the members of such a delegation may not be PLO members.

On the PLO's representation in the seven-member committee delegation which will shortly visit Britain, Shaqqur said: The British stand was marked by intransigence in rejecting the Palestinian people's representation in the committee. However, after talks between the Arab countries and Britain, an agreement was reached and the main obstacle was overcome when the PLO named Dr Walid al-Khalidi to represent it in the committee. He added: We must not forget that the main task of the seven-member committee is to explain the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fes summit.

Asked about Palestinian contacts with Israeli opposition politicians, 'Imad Shaqqur said: Such contacts are logical and acceptable due to several incentives which stress the need to work in the enemy arena and get to know the enemy closely and from within. These contacts are also essential from the moral point of view.

He added that it is necessary to know the way to victory. The current situation requires knowledge of the basic laws of political action in light of the present balances of power. Victory over the enemy in the enemy's arena is a basic and major target which deserves sacrifices. Contacting these forces enables us to know the enemy, its parties and inclinations, and the distribution of roles inside the enemy camp. Meanwhile, we cannot treat all Jews as an indivisible bloc. We are fighting Zionism and its practical translation in the so-called State of Israel, which was established 35 years ago. We cannot deal with Israel as if it were entirely Sharon. The camp is large and comprises many differences and contradictions.

He indicated that in its recent session the PNC reaffirmed the previous resolutions, particularly the one adopted at the 13th session on considering dialogue with Jewish democratic and progressive forces inside and outside Israel one of the tasks the PNC entrusted to the PLO Executive Committee for study and implementation. He added that this resolution will be discussed at the next PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis on Thursday.

Continuing, he said: I view these matters realistically, out of polit cal and not ideological considerations. The political movement deals with facts from the political perspective of attaining our people's objectives. We will continue to hold a dialogue with anyone who recognizes the Palestinian people's existence and right to self-determination, to the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and to repatriation, considering the PLO their representative.

Asked about an expected Arab-Jewish peace conference in Paris, Shaqqur said that talk about this Arab-Jewish meeting began in Beirut during the seige. He added that at a meeting between Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and (Amnon Cabilock), an Israeli journalist who is a correspondent of the French newspaper LE MONDE, an idea was proposed that about 30 Palestinian and Jewish intellectuals meet in a neutral place to discuss submitted issues. However, he said, nothing new has taken place in this regard.

On Palestinian-Egyptian relations, Shaqqur said: The Palestinian stand has not changed. The PNC recently decided to get closer to Egypt and in agreement with the Egyptian national movement the further Egypt moves away from the Camp David accords.

PALESTINIANS DENOUNCE EGYPTIAN MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Salah Khalaf Statement

GF161644 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 1

[Talal al-'Awdi dispatch]

[Excerpts] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Palestinian national liberation movement Fatah Executive Committee, has displayed astonishment and surprise at the official and semiofficial Egyptian media campaign against the PLO and the PNC resolutions.

In a statement to AL-ANBA' Abu Iyad said: I regard this as a dangerous campaign because it is directed and concentrated against the Palestinian people. He wondered what President Husni Mubarak had left for Israel.

He added: We are a nation that does not accept warnings from anybody, because it is a matter that touches our dignity. Let President Mubarak do what he wants; he will not do more than what Israel is doing in Lebanon.

Abu Iyad declared that he will talk in detail at an open seminar on Palestinian-Egyptian relations and will reveal the secret behind this attack.

The Palestinian leader, who arrived in Kuwait last night, explained that his tour of socialist countries was to explain the PNC decisions to officials in those countries. He said that he found deep understanding and great support. Positive and important results will appear in the future.

Abu Mayzar Interview

GF161648 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Mar 83 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member and official spokesman, by Hamzah at-Tayrawi -- no place, date given]

[Excerpt] [Question] What is the secret behind the Egyptian press campaign against the PLO leadership?

[Answer] I personally was surprised by the Egyptian media and press campaign, especially by the timing of the one being launched by the media in fraternal Egypt against the PLO. It is both new and old because As-Sadat launched similar campaigns against the PLO prior to the signing of the Camp David agreements. Then things calmed down, especially when Mubarak began his rule. At that time some people interpreted this as a temporary tactic while others understood it to imply that the man understood the considerable damage that the Camp David agreement inflicted on the Palestinian question.

Then, 1 week after the PNC meeting, a media campaign erupted under the pretext that the PNC resolutions intervened in Egypt's internal affairs because they saluted the national forces in Egypt which oppose Camp David and all forms of normalization.

We in the PLO ask: Is there any sensible person who expected the PNC not to talk about Camp David and not to stress its opposition to it? Is there a single sensible person who imagines that our loyalty and salutation to those who resist normalizing relations with the Zionist enemy constitute intervention in Egypt's internal affairs? We declared in accordance with our charter that we don't intervene in the internal affairs of the Arab countries.

However, after this unjust and unwise campaign, we say: Isn't determining the fate of the Palestinian question and the fate of the Palestinian people and drawing a future for them without permission from anyone, and isn't the signing of the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and their subsidiaries on the Palestinian question and their provisions pertaining to the borders between Egypt and Israel -- isn't all this considered intervention in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people? Isn't a protest by the Palestinian people against this intervention being considered in the eyes of some Egyptian officials an intervention? Anyway, we don't wish to indulge in a media wrangle. It is sufficient that, while announcing our determination not to intervene in the internal affairs of anybody, we remain determined to denounce the Camp David agreements and their implementation.

KUNA REPORTS ON PLO CONTACTS WITH JAPAN

LD161444 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 16 Mar (KUNA) -- A number of members of the Palestine National Council are coming to Japan to meet Japanese opinion leaders and to attend the tribunal on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon "Iptil" scheduled for March 18, KUNA learned Wednesday. While speaking to KUNA, PNC representative in Tokyo Fathi 'Abd al-Hamid said that the meeting of the international people's tribunal is a Japanese initiative from those who found that the crime, which Israel is still committing, had not stopped. "This tribunal is an expression of the Japanese people's stand which crystallized after the Beirut massacres," he said. He added that the PNC members will attend the tribunal as observers and their coming will be an expression of thanks to the Japanese people, who have shown that they "are not prisoners of their economic interests, but that their moral and human values are strong."

On his expectations of the tribunal, 'Abd al-Hamid said that "the involvement of the tribunal will be a moral and humanitarian one, [word indistinct] on international society to shoulder their responsibilities and translate their will and put an end to these crimes against humanity." I believe the world opinion will follow the tribunal in which Israel's true nature will be exposed, as much as it will see some Israelis and Jews contradict Begin and his clique," the PLO representative concluded.

Meanwhile, it was learned that 'Abd al-Hamid will be invited to Foreign Minister Shintaro Ete's planned meeting with Middle East ambassadors this month, indicating that he will be given ambassadorial status. This means a major shift in Japanese diplomacy to the Middle East, government sources said and added that Japan plans to build up close contact with the PLO.

ALGIERS VOP: KHALAF DEPARTS HUNGARY; STATEMENT ISSUED

LD160053 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has concluded an official visit to Hungary that started on 10 March. According to a statement issued on the occasion, during his visit Brother Abu Iyad conducted talks on the latest developments of the Palestinian issue, including the decision issued by the PNC at its 16th session, which was held in Algiers, with the secretary general of the Hungarian Patriotic Front and the ministers of foreign affairs and the interior. The Hungarian side expressed its appreciation for the outcome of the meetings of the Council, which consolidated Palestinian national unity and opened the way before the Palestinian people. The Hungarian side considers the visit of Brother Abu Iyad as a further important step on the road of developing common relations. It asserted anew its backing for the heroic struggle the Palestinian people are waging, under the leadership of the PLO, against the colonialist-Zionist-imperialist aggression.

GULF AFFAIRS

CONCERN MOUNTING OVER MASSIVE GULF OIL SLICK

GF170530 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17-18 Mar 83 p 5

[By Mike Holland]

[Text] Concern is mounting over a massive oil slick that threatens the entire Arab Gulf coastline.

In Bahrain a constant state of readiness is being maintained under the guidance of Khalid Fakhru, director of the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre. The slick originated from the Nowruz field in Iranian waters at the neck of the Gulf. It has been moving southwards through the Ardashir and (Cyprus) fields and is now thought to be in the Fereydun area around 240 kms from the coast of Bahrain. Information on the slick is scant as winds have kept it just outside Arab waters while it has been travelling down the Gulf. But it is thought that oil is spilling from at least two wells and the spill could total 100,000 barrels.

The first well blew on February 8 either after being struck by a ship or because of corrosion. Around 2,000 barrels a day have been spewing from this blowout, which is not thought to have been capped yet. Then, on March 2, an Iraqi air strike hit three platforms in the Nowruz field setting two on fire and causing a blowout in the third, probably resulting in a further 2,000 barrels a day gushing into the sea. During the past month westerly winds have kept the oil from Arabian shores though earlier this week there were reports of winds which could drive the slick towards the west side of the Gulf, endangering coastlines and power plants. If the wind did change direction the slick could reach the nearest part of the Arabian coast within five days. But latest meteorological information predicts only light and variable winds, and possibly a weak and westerly shamal that would keep the slick in Iranian waters.

Bahrain has some of the best contingency plans in the Gulf because of a massive slick which hit the island's northern coastline in August, 1980.

Co-ordination already exists between the government, the Bahrain defence force, the police, the central municipality and the Bahrain Petroleum Company [Bapco].

Bapco co-ordinator of environmental affairs, Derek Brown, said yesterday that the situation was being monitored.

KUWAIT

LIBERIAN PRESIDENT DOE ARRIVES 15 MARCH

LD150922 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0849 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Mar (KUNA) — President of Liberia Samuel Doe today arrived here on a 3-day official visit.

He was met by amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, with whom he will hold talks concerning the means of strengthening cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic sphere.

Departs After Visit

LD161226 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA) -- Liberian President and head of the Revolutionary Council Samuel Doe left here Wednesday at the end of a two-day visit aimed at boosting bilateral ties between Kuwait and Liberia.

Earlier today, President Doe had talks with H.H. the amir on ways to expand cooperation between the two countries in various fields and on the Afro-Arab ties, minister of the amiri diwan [advisor to chief of state] said after the meeting.

Commenting on the visit of the Liberian president, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and acting Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said in a statement today that the talks between Doe and H.H. the amir revealed identity of views of the two leaders regarding the global (?matters) they discussed.

The Kuwaiti side deeply appreciated Liberia's support for the Palestinian question and the Arab standing on the Middle East crisis and the two sides hoped that a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war could be reached soon, minister said.

On the African front, Kuwait and Liberia voiced support for African countries still fighting to free themselves from all kinds of colonialism and the rule of minorities and to gain freedom and independence, he added.

Husayn noted that President Doe's visit was in response to an invitation by H.H. the amir during his stay in Kuwait, Doe met the H.H. the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and senior government officials to discuss world issues of common interest and bilateral relations.

PARLIAMENTARIAN ON IMPACT OF OPEC PRICE DECISION

LD162350 Kuwait KUNA in English 1703 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 16 (KUNA) -- Head of the National Assembly's Economic and Financial Affairs Committee Jasim al-Kharafi affirmed Wednesday that in the absence of care and goodwill the latest OPEC decision to cut back the oil price to 29 dollars per barrel will remain "ink on paper."

Al-Kharafi urged the Gulf members of OPEC not to compromise if they felt there were an attempt to breach the organization's commitment.

In an interview with KUNA, the parliamentarian said that the OPEC price reduction after difficult talks has given the impression that the solution was a compromise and the result of an agreement on a joint resolution to maintain the organization's unity and solidarity.

"As a result of the series of meetings and because of the unanimity of the decision, the matter will pass a convalescence period at the intensive care unit for a span of time before it can be really put to test to discover its ability to withstand (and survive)," the deputy elaborated.

"I still believe that what governs prices is the supply and demand on the international market," Al-Kharafi said.

All should realize that there should be sacrifices that would touch on all parties and not, in particular, to be shouldered by the Gulf states alone," the deputy emphasized.

In reply to a question on the impact of the North Sea oil countries on the OPEC decision, the committee chief said that they are the first to be harmed by the trimming of prices. He explained that if a price war between producing countries took place the studies predict that the barrel of oil will be sold at 20 dollars while cost of producing oil in certain North Sea fields reach the same figure.

"Hence, production will fall in view of the absence of economic viability," he argued, adding that it is in these countries' interest that prices should remain above 20 dollars per barrel.

Answering another question on whether he was optimistic towards the OPEC member-countries commitment to the new marker price, Kharafi said that he was not, yet he hopes that he is wrong. He referred in this respect to the economic situation of the member states "particularly if demand declines."

The deputy announced that he does not fear the possible economic repercussions on Kuwait's financial situation despite the fact that it will lead to a deficit budget. "My fears will grow, however, in the absence of a clear and far ranging policy," Kharafi said, adding that alternatives should be seeked to cover for the expected fall in production.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARAB ISSUES

PM161105 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 14-20 Mar 83 pp 22-24

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah by 'Ali Hashim in Kuwait -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Have there been any fresh attempts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Answer] Serious efforts are continuing. We will continue our tireless and resolute endeavors to end this war. We will intensify our efforts to promote a just solution by all possible means through such international organizations as the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations.

[Question] Has the question of restoring relations with Egypt been considered, and will relations be restored in the near future?

[Answer] I have said that Egypt is an important part of our Arab nation and that it played a distinguished role in all our issues. Perhaps the obstacles that have kept Egypt away from these issues are gradually disappearing. We must not rush matters. Everything in its own time. We pray to God from our hearts that all the reasons and factors which hinder the return of normal relations among all parts of our Arab homeland will disappear. Egypt is a leading Arab country and we harbor love for it, wish it well, and pin our hopes on it.

[Question] Is there anything new regarding the seven-member committee's visit to Britain?

[Answer] I believe that the parties concerned have already announced 15 March as the date for the committee's visit. Here I want to say that a major responsibility falls on Britain as far as the Palestinian question is concerned. I would be happy to hear that Britain had adopted a positive attitude toward the seven-member committee to help it succeed in its efforts to serve this paramount Arab cause.

[Question] What about Lebanon, and what information do you have regarding the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations?

[Answer] This matter concerns Lebanon. Our information on these negotiations is that there is intransigence and the negotiations are faltering. What could we expect from Israel other than intransigence and obstacles to hinder the negotiations?

[Question] Does Kuwait support these negotiations, does it expect early withdrawal, and is there any pressure by the Gulf states to bring about a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon? Would the negotiations stop if Kuwait said it did not support them?

[Answer] You ask if I expect withdrawal. I say that there will be no withdrawal before the thorns are eliminated. You ask me about Gulf pressure. I want to ask you: what are the others doing about pressure for withdrawal? We are one Arab nation with one common responsibility. There would have been no violation of Arab territory here and there if Israel had discerned a united and cohesive Arab position. This is the situation and we pray for God's help.

[Question] Will Kuwait and the GCC states contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon?

[Answer] Kuwait will not hesitate to contribute to and participate in the reconstruction of Lebanon. The GCC will undoubtedly be among the first to contribute as much as possible to reconstruction. This is an Arab duty. I also believe that an international fund will be set up for building and reconstruction. It is really regrettable that the aggressor who wrought ruin and destruction should escape punishment.

[Question] What is Kuwait's position regarding the Damascus tripartite declaration issued by Syria, Libya, and Iran?

[Answer] Kuwait is a GCC member. The GCC has expressed regret at this declaration, which we believe does not serve Arab unity of ranks and does not help the efforts being made to end the war between the brother and the friend.

We wish and hope to hear statements which help end this bloodletting and destruction, from which both Iraq and Iran are suffering.

[Question] Do you expect President Ronald Reagan's administration to honor the commitments it made to the Arabs, from ensuring withdrawal from Lebanon to implementing the Reagan settlement plan for the Middle East?

[Answer] This matter concerns Reagan himself and his administration. As regards the Reagan plan for a settlement in the Middle East, this matter concerns the Palestinian brothers. We support them because we suffer what they suffer and their cause is our cause, but the final decision is theirs.

[Question] President Husni Mubarak has stated that if the Middle East question is not settled this month the cause will be lost. What do you think of this statement?

[Answer] I would have liked such a question to be addressed to President Mubarak himself. Perhaps he has some explanation for his opinion, which we respect. We hope that matters will not reach a point where we cease to be optimistic and where despair sets in. Only God knows the unknown.

[Question] The United States has decided to increase the number of the Rapid Deployment Force troops to 440,000 in order to protect the Gulf. Do you have any comment on that?

[Answer] We have said repeatedly that the Gulf states are responsible for the protection of the Gulf and that we do not accept any foreign interference in our region. The United States makes statements and decisions. That is its business but our position is clear. We are against any foreign interference and absolutely disagree that others should decide to protect the Gulf. We are the people of the Gulf and we believe that the absence of foreign interference is in itself protection for the Gulf and that any interference by any foreign state would only invite interference by others, which would only make it worse. This is in nobody's interest. It neither benefits the Gulf states nor the states seeking to impose their protection on the Gulf.

[Question] Some press reports have spoken of an Israeli plan to invade the Gulf. What is your opinion, is the danger Israeli or Soviet?

[Answer] I think that Sharon talked about invading the Gulf area. There is no limit to Israel's ambitions. Israel was founded on aggression and used aggression to expand. It has many aggressive dreams and its leaders are competing to fulfill these dreams, driven by the endless backing -- that is support and blessing -- they get. They are bloodthirsty, with a lust for occupying territory. So why should I rule out such aggressive designs when our Arab nation has still made no significant preparations to enable it to foil such hostile designs.

You ask me whether the danger to the region is Israeli or Soviet, and I say that this is a strange question indeed. Who has been committing aggression, invading and shedding blood, and who has supported Arab rights? Israel is the prime danger to us all. Israel was created out of nothing. It brought with it all the grudges borne by the Jews since time immemorial, grudges against, among others, all the prophets. It has shown contempt for all the noble ideals, traditions, and principles upheld by the prophets. It undermined the teachings of God and his good prophets. It is now reviving its old ways of aggression, bloodletting, and destruction of everything.

[Question] It has been reported that Jordan intends to join in fresh negotiations to solve the problem. How true is this?

[Answer] As I said before, the Palestinian brothers have the final word. His Majesty King Husayn himself has said that our Palestinian brothers have the first and final words because it is their cause.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER ON OIL POLICY, GULF WAR

GF170617 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has affirmed that the Kingdom's policy is based on the need to bolster Arab solidarity and achieve unanimity, which requires unity among brothers when the need for this arises.

In a statement to today's newspaper AL-MADINAH, the information minister referred to the recent meeting which took place between His Majesty King Hassan II and Algerian President His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid. He said: We thank God for the recent meeting which took place in the city of Wajdah. It was the first direct meeting between the two leaders in years. He added: His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz is ready to participate in any efforts, whether by personnel attendance of through contacts, messages, and envoys, to put an end to Arab differences, clear Arab air, and unify Arab ranks and work anew.

On the Kingdom's oil policy, his excellency the information minister affirmed that it does not spring from nothing, nor does it go astray. It does not act as the merchant who is concerned with gains and losses. It is a great and heavy responsibility to which the Kingdom has been committed since God gifted it with these huge reserves of oil and mineral wealth and put it in the forefront in influencing the world market and consequently, the entire world economy -- including that of the advanced industrialized countries and the developing Third World countries of which it is one -- and in preventing biddings, price wars, surpluses, and shortages in production because regulation serves the interest of all and requires commitment.

His excellency warned against nonconformance in this regard because it will create havoc in the oil market and harm the interests of the oil-producing and consuming countries. The Kingdom rejects and incessantly tries to avoid this.

On the developments in the Middle East issue, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said: The recognition of the PLO by the U.S. Administration is very necessary for the two parties. This recognition will serve the U.S. Administration and enable it to fulfill its desire to find a solution to the Palestinian cause. His excellency said: Recognizing the PLO serves the U.S. Administration and enables it to fulfill its desire and express its good intentions toward the Arabs and the region. It will also contribute in expressing the U.S. desire for genuine peace and its good intentions on the process of peace it is adopting, and the peace initiatives it is proposing.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, his excellency said: This war, which is now in its 3rd year, is an issue without logic, particularly since Iraq has expressed its readiness to return to its international border, has withdrawn its forces from the Iranian territory which it occupied, accepted all mediation proposed to it, and agreed to settle the conflict through negotiation. His excellency asserted that in this way, this war is becoming more menacing to the two countries and the entire Gulf region. He also asserted that the nonaligned countries' responsibility toward this war is doubled because they are developing countries and are aware of the heavy losses and devastating effects -- particularly on the economic level -- the war poses on two country members in the movement. He expressed the hope that in the future there will be more international stands and pressure, to the extent of punishment, to put an end to this war which constitutes devastation and destruction and poses a threat to world peace and security.

UAE

OIL MINISTER VIEWS OUTCOME OF OPEC MEETING

GF161127 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 16 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The UAE will have priority in any increase in OPEC production quotas when the market situation improves and the new benchmark price of 29 dollars a barrel set by the organisation will be gradually increased to 30 dollars, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has said.

Dr al-'Utaybah, who returned home yesterday after the London talks of OPEC oil ministers culminating in an agreement, said in a statement in Abu Dhabi that the new price would be frozen for one to two years according to developments on the oil market, which he said had started to firm up.

He believed the new pricing and production agreement would "hold", adding "the petroleum market has started to respond (favourably) to our decision.

"The outcome will emerge within the next few days." He said the OPEC would "closely monitor" the latest developments on the world oil market and the levels of production and prices by exporters inside and outside the OPEC.

A market monitoring committee, headed by Al-'Utayabh and including the oil ministers of Algeria, Venezuela and Indonesia, would meet every month for this purpose, he said. The committee held its first meeting on Monday night immediately after the full OPEC meeting and would meet again in London on April 16, he said. He added he was entrusted by the OPEC in his capacity as committee chairman to meet British Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson and "we have found good response from Britain. We found good response from Britain. We found the same from other (non-OPEC) exporters such as Norway and Mexico."

Urging all oil exporters to cooperate, Dr al-'Utaybah said, "we are all in the same boat, and even non-oil producers are affected. The whole range of the world's economies cannot be isolated from oil price changes."

Asked to comment on reports that the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, has cut its oil prices by 1.25 dollars to 28 dollars a barrel, Dr al-'Utaybah said, "we all hope that all countries outside the OPEC will abide by coordinating their oil policies with the OPEC because this is for the benefit of all. A rush of discounts will benefit no one. Everyone will be a loser".

Asked about implementation of the new price, he said the 13 members had been left the choice of implementing it effective from March 14, the date of agreement, or retroactive as far as February 1. He said the UAE would discuss the issue and decide in accordance with its national interests.

Revealing the priority for the UAE in production quota increase, he told newsmen in London on Monday night that the UAE made a sacrifice and accepted a production quota of 1.1 million barrels per day even though "we believe 1.5 million BPD is the least we can go down to". Dr al-'Utaybah said the new prices for UAE crude would be 29.56 dollars a barrel for Marban top quality crude, 29.46 dollars for the Umm Ash-Shif variety and 29.36 dollars for Zakum crude. He said the OPEC agreement was a compromise. "It is not what everybody would like to have, but we realised that there should be sacrifices and we were all willing to make our own contribution to those sacrifices to ensure the unity of the OPEC," he said.

The main problem faced by the OPEC was that "rumours in a dull market had encouraged consumers to de-stock heavily by five to six million barrels a day, whereas the norm was one to two million BPD," he said. The OPEC's current output of around 14 million BPD would rise nearer to the 17.5 million BPD ceiling once this destocking ended.

Dr al-'Utaybah said that Saudi Arabia, which has not been allocated a quota under the agreement would fill the gap left once the production of the other 12 members had been taken into account. "This is a unique role played by Saudi Arabia and we are grateful for it," he said.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer welcomed the OPEC cut in oil prices as it would "lead to more output and jobs here".

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON DEFENSE ISSUES

Joint Military Exercises

NC132217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Text] Alexandria, 13 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said Egypt does not oppose joint military exercises between its armed forces and those of friendly countries, because such exercises are in the interest of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

In a speech today on the inauguration of a British naval exhibition in Alexandria, Abu Ghazalah said: During these exercises, which take place after the approval of the political leadership, between the Egyptian Armed Forces and the forces of friendly countries, we study the techniques of modern military theory and the type of armaments used by friendly countries.

Abu Ghazalah added that the Egyptian Armed Forces conduct joint exercises with Sudan and that these exercises usually take place every year.

On the diversification of the sources of arms, the defense minister said: We are negotiating with three countries to introduce new weapons and equipment into our Armed Forces. Some have already arrived and the Egyptian flag has been hoisted over them.

Abu Ghazalah pointed out that the British arms exhibition includes sophisticated weapons that can help our officers and engineers a great deal instead of sending them abroad for training. He added: Such exhibitions allow our officers the opportunity to become acquainted with the most up-to-date technology and also help us to develop our Armed Forces.

He said: I have come with Minister of State for War Production Engineer Jamal as-Sayid to inspect the most modern sophisticated arms that can help us to develop the Egyptian military industries. He added: Working groups in all specializations have been formed to study this equipment and to select the best for our use. He indicated that the British side had previously supplied the Egyptian Navy with the "Ramadan" craft, which has proved to be excellent and highly efficient.

Regarding the maneuver to take place tomorrow, Monday, between the 2d and 3d Field Armies, Abu Ghazalah said it will be a free maneuver between two equal formations which are different in quality. He added that each army will direct the battle according to its viewpoint, allowing the leaders freedom of decision.

The defense minister pointed out that this maneuver is the first of its kind and size in the history of the Egyptian Armed Forces and that there will be high-level arbitration committees. Every company will have an arbitrator who can interfere when there is a mistake and who will have full freedom to abolish or modify the decisions.

The exhibition's inauguration was attended by naval forces commander Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad, British Navy Commander (John Fieldhouse), British Ambassador Michael Weir, and senior Armed Forces officers.

The exhibition has been organized by the British sales corporation and there are 60 manufacturers of naval, air, and ground military equipment represented.

The exhibition includes examples of ground weapons such as armored vehicles and heavy, medium, and light-caliber guns, various types of rockets, communications systems, various kinds of military aircraft and helicopters, and a variety of naval craft (Zodiac) and armament craft (Hovercraft).

The floating exhibition has already visited a number of Arab states, including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Jordan.

Armed Forces Capabilities

NC151930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Suez, 15 Mar (MENA) -- The deputy prime minister and defense and war production minister, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, has stated that Egypt does not intend to form a rapid deployment force. He said Egypt is strengthening its forces to protect itself and that it will not use them as a rapid deployment force even though its forces are capable of performing any task, such as swift movement, like a rapid deployment force.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's remarks were in reply to questions from foreign journalists attending the maneuvers staged today by the 2d and 3d Field Armies. He said the maneuver absolutely is not tantamount to a message addressed to anyone, because we do not address messages to anyone. He added that the plan for the manuever was drawn up a long time ago and that it was scheduled to take place last year. The field marshal repeated that we do not send messages to anyone.

The deputy prime minister and defense minister denied any connection between this maneuver and recent developments on the Libyan-Sudanese border. He said: There is no connection between this maneuver and any political questions. We are training our Armed Forces to be prepared to defend our country at all times and also to defend Sudan, because Sudan and Egypt represent a strategic depth for each other.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah denied a plan for staging joint exercises with any foreign state in the near future. He asserted, however, that Egypt is prepared to stage any kind of military exercise with any friendly state, should such a state make a request.

Replying to a question on the current most important requirements of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: At present, we need more fighter aircraft, particularly F-16's, as well as more modern air defense systems to replace the Soviet SAM batteries, which have become obsolete but which are still in service.

The field marshal pointed out that Egypt has concluded a contract for French Mirage 2000's and that the Armed Forces will receive these planes next year. He said this is within the framework of Egypt's policy to build a deterrent force capable of preventing the eruption of war or aggression.

Replying to another question, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah emphasized that the policy of diversifying the sources of arms, that is being pursued by Egypt, does not affect the process of rearming the Armed Forces because everything is planned carefully and we have no problems in this respect.

On his assessment of today's maneuvers, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the standard shown by the forces in today's maneuvers is much better than in previous maneuvers and that the combat activities of both sides are proceeding well.

Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah today attended the third stage of the maneuver, "Dawn," which began at dawn last Saturday and will end tomorrow, Wednesday.

The maneuver also was attended by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, commanders of the main branches of the Armed Forces and members of the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee

MUBARAK RECEIVES ROMANIAN TRADE MINISTER

NC131109 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at Al-Qubbah Palace this morning Romanian Trade Minister Vasile Pungan, who arrived in Egypt 2 days ago on a 5-day visit. The meeting was attended by Foreign Trade and Economy Minister Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id and the Romanian ambassador in Cairo.

After the meeting As-Sa'id said President Mubarak's meeting with the Romanian trade minister was an opportunity for the president to review with him what had been achieved regarding Egyptian-Romanian relations in the sphere of economic cooperation and to discuss the various possible means for bolstering this cooperation.

As-Sa'id added that President Mubarak also reviewed with the Romanian minister the situation in the Middle East and said the Romanian minister had brought a private letter to President Mubarak from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Replying to a question on Romanian-Egyptian relations, Dr as-Sa'id said they were strong and are continuously growing from year to year.

Dr as-Sa'id pointed out that the Romanian trade minister had come to Egypt to participate in the opening of the Cairo International Fair and of the Romanian pavilion in the same fair.

Pungan Departs 15 March

NC151722 Cairo MENA in English 1604 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA) -- Romanian Trade Minister Vasile Pungan left here this afternoon for home following a five-day visit to Egypt during which he conveyed a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceaucescu to President Husni Mubarak.

The Romanian minister discussed during his visit with Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of investment and international cooperation, means of consolidating economic cooperation between Egypt and Romania, particularly in the fields of agriculture, maritime transport and chemical industries.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UK 15 MARCH

NC151715 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 15 (MENA) -- Egypt and Britain today signed a memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation between them, which comprises the approval of the British Government to place 64 million sterling under Egypt's service, of 16 million sterling unrepayable grant and the rest credit facilities with the underwriting of the British authority for exports.

The credit facilities would be repaid over a period ranging between seven and ten years and would bear a 10 percent interest rate.

Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Wajih Shindi signed for Egypt and British Secretary of Economic Cooperation Lord Cockfield signed for Britain.

The two ministers agreed that a British technical delegation arrives in Egypt at the end of this month to agree on projects to be financed within the framework of the aforementioned sum.

Following the signature, Lord Cockfield said that the latest visit of President Husni Mubarak to his country and his meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher had helped to foster Egyptian-British relations in different fields.

He added that there was a big chance for the participation of British capital in numerous economic projects in Egypt.

The volume of financial aid received by Egypt from Britain during the last five years reached approximately 82 million sterling used in funding economic development projects.

Lord Cockfield had arrived in Cairo yesterday on a week-long visit.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS FOUR NEW GOVERNORS 14 MARCH

NC141935 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree appointing four new governors. They are: Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo; Nabil Halawah, governor of Kafr ash-Shaykh; Major General Majdi Ahmad Ahmad Sulayman, governor of Southern Sinai; and Dr Faruq Muhammad at-Tallawi, governor of the New Valley.

The new governors will take the constitutional oath before President Husni Mubarak at 'Urubah Palace tomorrow morning. The swearing-in ceremony will be attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Minister of State for Local Government Sa'd Ma'mun.

DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES MERGED

NC142127 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has stated that the Popular Development Ministry will be merged with the Local Government Ministry.

COMMUNIQUE ON 15-16 MARCH WAR OPERATIONS

JN161728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Mar (INA) -- An Iraqi military communique said that during the past 24 hours the Iranian forces' have lost seven killed in the Maysan operational sector and one killed east of Basra.

Communique No 1,030, issued by the Armed Forces General Command here this evening, added that the Iraqi forward units destroyed one tank, one hardware stockpile and one observation post in the same sector and found some serviceable military hardware and light weapons.

The communique said that the Iranian artillery shelled Basra, Mandali, and Qurahtu, damaging the Mandali hospital, wounding eight civilians, including one woman, and damaging eight civilian vehicles. Four citizens were wounded in Qurahtu.

The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While pursuing the defense of their homeland, civilization, and their right to live against the barbaric Khomeyniite aggression, the glorious Iraqis are adding new brilliant pages to their history which is replete with victory, sacrifice, and loftiness.

The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the Maysan operational sector. Our units struck with their various weapons, killing seven, and destroying one tank, one hardware stockpile and one observation post. One of our forward units also found some serviceable military hardward.

2. While performing its duties opposite one of our forward units' positions east of Basra, our combat patrols discovered one 60 mm mortar and a quantity of light weapons that were taken to the rear lines. One was killed opposite the positions of one of our other units in the same sector.

3. One personnel implacement and two observation posts were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. The rancorous Iranian enemy today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Qurahtu damaging the Mandali hospital, wounding eight civilians, including one woman, and damaging eight civilian vehicles. Four civilians were also wounded in Qurahtu.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 March 1983

HUSAYN LEAVES FOR 1-DAY VISIT TO FRG 16 MAR

JN161240 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for the FRG on a 1-day working visit during which he will meet with President Karl Carstens, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and senior FRG officials. The king was seen off by His Highness Prince Muhammad, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the presidents of the Senate and the National Consultative Council, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the ministers, and a number of officials. His majesty was also seen off by the FRG charge d'affaires and the British ambassador in Amman. Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Marwan al-Qasim, minister of foreign affairs, are accompanying King Husayn on this visit.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before his majesty the king and in the presence of the Cabinet members as regent during the king's absence from the homeland.

ABU 'AWDAH COMMENTS ON SHULTZ STATEMENTS

JN171024 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Amman, 17 Mar (PETRA) -- Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has stated that Jordan believes circumstances are still not right for it to join the negotiations, since Jordan's conditions [to join the negotiations] have not yet been met by either the Americans or the Palestinians.

Abu 'Awdah, in an interview with AP and the OMAHA WORLD HERALD -- commenting on a statement made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Jordan's joining the negotiations -- said: We share the concern being shown by Shultz at the urgency of the time factor. But Shultz, it appears, does not comprehend the definitions [muhaddidat] dictated by the peace prerequisites, which should be well understood by the Americans.

The information minister added that the U.S. Government had not yet obtained Israel's consent with regard to the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon, and this in itself serves as a condition for testing U.S. credibility and desire. He said: We know that the United States is capable of bringing pressure to bear on Israel, but the problem is whether or not it is willing to do so.

Abu 'Awdah explained that Jordan had not yet received a Palestinian reply from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who intends to discuss the issue with the committee, stressing that the Palestinian stand is basic in this regard.

DAILY NOTES CARTER-PALESTINIANS MEETING

JN161446 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Mar 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman -- SAWT ASH-SHA'B has learned that deported Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimah and Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim held a 45-minute meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter last Sunday. SAWT ASH-SHA'B has also learned that Al-Qawasimah and Milhim outlined to Carter the basis for a just and lasting peace in the region as follows:

A. The need for a direct dialogue between the United States and the PLO to exchange views and to clarify the stands to the U.S. public and to U.S. policymakers.

B. The U.S. credibility concerning its desire to achieve peace contradicts its actions and that the United States is daily being put to the test by the Arab nation.

C. The relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people is eternal and unique. The Fes summit resolution stressed the establishment of confederal relations with Jordan even before the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

D. Israel's insistence on expansion at the expense of Arab rights is not only a threat to the regional but also to world peace.

E. The Palestinian and Arab people have demonstrated their desire for a just and lasting peace by adopting the Fes summit peace plan.

F. No peace can be established if the PLO is disregarded and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state, are disavowed.

G. The Palestinian people do not accept any homeland other than Palestine and wish to live in peace and tranquillity like any other people.

Sawt ash-Sha'b learned that Carter's replies to al-Qawasimah's and Milhim's remarks were based on his personal stand as stated in his press conference in Amman. Carter met with Gaza Mayor Rasha[illegible]sh-Shawwa and Bethelhem Mayor Ilyas Frayj during his visit to the occupied Arab territories which preceded his visit to Jordan.

BRIEFS

PIPELINE FOR IRAQ -- Amman, March 16 (KUNA) -- Iraq and Jordan have agreed to build an oil pipeline across Jordanian territories to carry Iraq's crude oil to be exported through the Jordanian seaport of al-Aqaba, informed sources told KUNA Wednesday. Specialized technical committees exporting its oil since early last year when Syria closed its borders with Iraq and stopped allowing Iraqi oil to pass through its territories to be refined in Lebanon. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1136 GMT 16 Mar 83 LD]

AL-JUMAYYIL RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV

Ambassador on USSR Intervention

NC170729 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Following a 5-month absence from Beirut, Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov visited the Republican Palace for the first time yesterday. President al-Jumayyil received Soldatov and reviewed with him the latest developments on the situation and the Soviet leaders' stand on these developments, including their stand on the question of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Soldatov was asked whether in the event war breaks out between Israel and Syria, the Soviet Union will intervene on Syria's side, in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between the two countries. He answered: We believe that this is a hypothetical question. However, in the event this becomes a reality, we will intervene.

Voice of Lebanon Coverage

NC161446 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today followed up the current consultations in Washington between the Lebanese delegation and the U.S. Administration's officials. He also received Soviet Ambassador Soldatov and reviewed with him the developments in Lebanon and the area and the stand of Moscow's government on the acceleration of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

On leaving the palace, Soldatov was asked: Following your long absence from Lebanon and after your meeting with President al-Jumayyil, what were the most important points you discussed and what points did you convey to him?

The ambassador answered: Our stance is well known and we have repeatedly affirmed that the Soviet Union supports all the efforts to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. The stand on the aggression can be nothing other than the need for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanese territory. According to the UN Charter, we cannot in principle recognize the aggression. The aggressive forces must be withdrawn and compensation must be paid in accordance with the UN Charter. The aggressor must meet these conditions. He added: The aggressor and his supporters cannot make preconditions before he ends his aggression and pulls out his forces from the territories subjected to the aggression. We consider this as an answer to be second part of the question.

The ambassador was asked: Is the Soviet Union exerting any efforts with Syria and the Palestinian resistance aimed at withdrawing the Syrian army and the armed Palestinian groups from Lebanon in order to realize a total withdrawal? He answered: What we can say first is that this question and this issue have no connection with the aggression or stopping the aggression or with the withdrawal of the aggressive forces from Lebanese territory. Concerning your question, the Soviet Union supports the establishment of good Arab relations and the establishment of good Arab relations with all the Palestinian organizations. It is on this premise that the Soviet Union establishes its stand.

The ambassador was asked: Don't you believe that supplying Syria with SAM-5 missiles at a time when discussions to establish peace are taking place disrupts security and peace in the area? He answered: Absolutely not. These are measures aimed at bolstering the Syrian intrinsic defensive capabilities. These are measures which will deter aggressive ambitions including ambitions in Lebanese territory.

The ambassador was finally asked: If war breaks out between Israel and Syria, will the Soviet Union, which has good relations with Syria, interfere? He answered: We believe that this is a hypothetical issue.

Voice of Hope Report

NC170649 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0550 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Lebanon told President Amin al-Jumayyil yesterday that the Soviets will intervene directly if war breaks out again between Israel and Syria. He said that intervention by his country's forces would be sizeable." He also admitted that the Soviet Union has supplied Syria with new long-range missiles.

Qulaylat Meets Soldatov

NC162118 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun] today met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and leading embassy staffers. The long meeting that ensued was attended on behalf of the movement's command by Brothers Ahmad Zaydan, Dr Hashim al-Ayyubi, and Dr Yusuf Ibrahim. A discussion was held on the developments and events that are taking place under the present circumstances. There was also a joint affirmation of the importance of an efficacious role by the Soviet Union in the area.

After the meeting, Brother Qulaylat made the following statement: Today's meeting with his excellency the Soviet ambassador -- also held prior to the ambassador's meeting with the president of the republic -- derives its importance from the fact that the imperialist design is being widened under circumstances in which this design holds all the cards in the area. What is now taking place in Washington constitutes the ugliest image of U.S. blackmail in favor of Israel before the world. It is obvious that these meetings and these postponements are meant by the U.S. Administration, at this critical juncture, to spread the belief and to suggest that Israel is able to rebel against this administration and against its participation in the central plan, whose implementation began on the morning of the 4 June war.

Therefore, and following our meeting with his excellency the ambassador, we in the movement will go beyond the stance, role and action of the friendly and Arab states and we will not stop at this role. We will act this way in the course of the most obnoxious fascist war to which our Lebanese and Palestinian people have been exposed. The effect of this war continues through a political step. This state of affairs has prompted us to demand and also to put pressure on the Soviet Union and on the European states -- particularly France -- and to draw the Arab states into determining a (?decisive) stand on the continuing sufferings existing in this area as the result of the threat posed to the [Israeli] political design through the military pressure being put on the Zionist occupation.

We believe that such action cannot be serious except if a serious plan is hammered out to contribute to all the solutions envisaged for the area [words indistinct] Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab [words indistinct] which we guarantee through [words indistinct] Khaldah, Al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona] or (?Ash-Shiyah). A definite objective balance is achieved by the Soviet Union participating in and sitting at the table of any negotiations, whether these are held in Lebanon or anywhere else.

A definite objective balance is also achieved by independent Europe -- specifically France -- facing the U.S. Administration. This fact or formula is the only one rectifying the imbalance at the negotiating table and restoring the logic of justice among the negotiating forces. It is inadmissible that the militarily occupied and internally torn Lebanon because of [words indistinct] at a table where Lebanon is faced by the big state, the United States, and its ally, the racist, military, and fascist state -- Israel.

At this point, I want to say that, through our meeting with the ambassador, we have felt that the Soviet Union is experienceing the same (?fears) that we have said exist and the [words indistinct] the strategic participation by developing the strengthening of Syria's military might in the course of the confrontation, except by dealing with this serious state of deficiency -- not only as far as Syria is concerned, but also as far as the whole area is concerned.

SYRIANS REPORTEDLY WITHDRAW SAM-6'S FROM AL-BIQA'

NC171308 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Information received by the Voice of Lebanon radio indicates that the Syrian military command has recently withdrawn the remaining SAM-6 missiles from Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. Information obtained from highly informed sources indicates that Soviet and Syrian experts recently dismantled 5 bases for SAM-6 missiles which had been deployed in the areas of Turbul and 'Anjar, that these batteries were moved inside Syrian territory and that dummy missiles were deployed in their place to deceive reconnaissance operations.

This Syrian measure comes in the wake of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of several SAM-6 missile bases and after the Soviet Union had supplied Damascus with more sophisticated SAM-5 missiles which have a range of 300 km. It is known that this kind of missile has roused the fears of Washington and Tel Aviv and has threatened a new war in the Middle East.

JUNBLATT RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SYRIA 16 MAR

NC170924 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt returned yesterday from Damascus following a visit to Syria at the head of a party delegation during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

VOH NOTES SYRIAN OBJECTION TO U.S. PRESENCE IN

NC160726 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] In Damascus, the Syrian paper ATH-THAWRAH has expressed the objection of the Syrian Government, led by Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, to any U.S. military presence in south Lebanon within the framework of the future security arrangements on the Lebanese-Israeli border. The reason for this Syrian objection to any U.S. military presence in south Lebanon is, according to ATH-THAWRAH, that Washington wants to turn south Lebanon into a new Sinai. The paper adds that such a U.S. presence will actually be an Israeli presence. ATH-THAWRAH said giving any kind of authority to Major Sa'd Haddad means a continued Israeli occupation and military presence.

Commenting on the contents of ATH-THAWRAH, free Lebanon Commander Maj Haddad said: Let the 'Alawite rulers understand that the age of their occupation of Lebanon has gone forever and that their tutelage over the Lebanese rulers has also gone with it. If Maj Haddad or any other person takes over control of security in the south, this would be a purely domestic Lebanese matter and the Damascus rulers have nothing to do with it. In return, we promise the 'Alawite rulers that very soon, God willing, we will appoint rulers from among us to the 'Alawite mountain and to Damascus.

SALIM BRIEFS FOREIGN MINISTRY ON WASHINGTON TALKS

NC161232 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry today received a cable from Foreign Minister Salim briefing it on the Lebanese delegation's talks in Washington and on his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Congress.

Diplomatic information indicates that Minister Salim will possibly leave Washington Thursday or Friday for London and Rome where he will meet with his British and Italian counterparts and with the Vatican's secretary Cardinal Casarolli.

Al-Jumayyil on Washington Talks

NC162050 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpts] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has emphasized that he is decisive in his desire for the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from Lebanon. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim stated this following the meeting which President Reagan held with [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam in Washington this afternoon in the presence of Minister Salim and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

During the Cabinet session which he chaired tonight, President al-Jumayyil had a telephone call from Prime Minister Salam and Minister Salim in Washington. Following this call, President al-Jumayyil briefed the Cabinet on the atmosphere of the successive meetings which were held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Vice President Bush and on getting confirmation of the U.S. determination to help Lebanon.

The president of the republic briefed the Cabinet on the circumstances of dispatching the two Lebanese delegations to Washington to confront the intensive and effective Israeli presence there through an effective and intensive Lebanese presence. This had an effect and impact on the level of information and on the U.S. congressmen and senators.

President al-Jumayyil also briefed the Cabinet on the atmosphere of the nonaligned states conference in New Delhi and the definite success which accompanied the discussions and meetings of the Lebanese delegation, which controlled the arena and managed to persuade all the participating sides to respond to the Lebanese efforts and adopt Lebanon's viewpoint, which has been frankly relinked with the Third World. The Lebanese delegation's intensive contacts were crowned by the conference's resolutions, particularly those on the withdrawal of the non-Lebanese forces, which have no legal status, from the Lebanese territories.

At this point, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan praised the courage, wisdom, and faith which his excellency the president demonstrated during his moves at the New Delhi conference to obtain the support of 101 states.

After the session, President al-Jumayyil summoned Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, who briefed him on the security developments in the country, particularly the incidents against the Italian and U.S. contingents with the multinational force, and the measures adopted by the Army to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Al-As'ad, Al-Wazzan Affirm Stand

NC160738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad has reaffirmed his stand that there should be no partial withdrawals from Lebanon and that there should be no link between a comprehensive solution [in the Middle East area] and a solution to Lebanon's crisis before completing the implementation of withdrawals. He drew attention to serious signs of possible sedition in southern Lebanon affirming that its source is the Israeli presence. He emphasized that the liberation of Lebanon will foil the Israeli plan aimed at establishing ministates in it.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed satisfaction at the results achieved by the Lebanese delegation in Washington outlining that the Lebanese-U.S. talks were focused on the principles, ideas, and proposals adopted by the Lebanese side and agreed upon with the U.S. side through presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL REJECTS ISRAEL'S DEMANDS

NC161814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] In answer to newsmen's questions, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said the Palestinians took advantage of the atmosphere of freedom and democracy in Lebanon and committed acts violating the state's security and the homeland's stability, causing Lebanon's devastation and harming the Palestinian cause. He said Lebanon was the substitute arena for a war that should have taken place in other places. An indication of this is that the Arab countries honored the truce agreements and staved off all dangers, whereas Lebanon offered thousands of martyrs, including 5,000 Phalangist martyrs, to honor the truce and preserve the national sovereignty. Thus, it is unreasonable that Israel should insist that Lebanon pay a price for withdrawing from its territory. It is unreasonable that we pay this exorbitant price while the Arabs are looking upon our tragedy.

TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE RESUMED 21 MAR

NC161452 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] It was confirmed today that the 23d round of the tripartite negotiations in Netanya has been postponed until Monday because of the current consultations and because of the fact that Morris Draper and some members of the Lebanese delegation have to stay in the U.S. capital in order to complete the consultations.

It was agreed to postpone this round 3 [as heard] days. Draper's assistant Christopher Ross today received a cable to this effect from Washington. The Lebanese side wanted the negotiations to be resumed tomorrow.

CP LEADER HAWI VISITS BULGARIA 8-12 MAR

For Sofia BTA coverage of the communique issued on the visit of George Hawi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party, to Bulgaria 8-12 March and the press conference given on 12 March, see the Bulgaria section of the 16 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

REPORTAGE ON ATTACKS ON U.S., ITALIAN FORCES

Beirut Domestic Service Report

NC161316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] AFP reports that an unidentified person contacted its office and claimed that the Islamic Struggle Organization [Munazzamat al-Jihad al-Islami] carried out today's attack against a U.S. patrol in the Al-Awza'i area.

AFP Report

AB161428 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 16 (AFP) -- Five U.S. Marines and eight Italian soldiers were wounded in three separate attacks on Beirut's multinational peacekeeping force since late yesterday.

The attacks, two of which were aimed at Italian units, took place around the Beirut International Airport.

Five U.S. Marines were injured early today when a grenade was hurled at a seven-man patrol, according to a communique from the U.S. contingent.

An anonymous caller said the "Jihad Islamic Organization" was responsible for the attack "against American occupation forces. In a phone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Beirut, he said has group last month had issued a "warning" to the multinational peacekeeping force, but he gave no further details.

The Marines were flown by helicopter for treatment aboard the vessel Guadalcanal, moored off the coast of Beirut.

The attack against the U.S. forces came less than 12 hours after a first strike against Italian patrol units late yesterday as the Italian contingent was attending a party at its headquarters.

Five Italians were injured, two seriously, in the first attack around 10:30 p.m. (2010 GMT) yesterday when a single rocket struck their patrol vehicle.

An hour later a second Italian unit was patrolling the same road when its jeep was hit be a rocket. Three were wounded in the attack. One young officer had to have his leg amputated.

Italian military sources said the seriously injured were hospitalised in a private clinic in East Beirut while the others were being treated in the contingent's own medical facilities.

Official Lebanese sources said the Lebanese Army had made several arrests in the airport sector, which had been cordoned off by Lebanese and U.S. forces.

It was the first time that U.S. and Italian units had been the direct target of attacks.

Two earlier attacks against the multinational force had been aimed at French units. Three French soldiers were injured in those attacks.

Last January a booby-trapped car, parked in southern Beirut where U.S. troops were positioned, was safely defused. In November a car exploded in the same sector but caused no injuries.

Voice of Arab Lebanon

NC170858 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] The national resistance to the occupation has escalated in a manner that has amazed the invasion forces, who have used various methods of repression in the past few hours to confront the resistance, which has taken various forms. The Lebanese National Resistance Front continued its heroic operations when an RPG was fired at a vehicle carrying a number of enemy officers yesterday afternoon near Dahr al-Wahsh killing two officers, wounding two others, and completely destroying the vehicle.

Due to the extensive cordon which the occupation forces imposed on the area when they brought in over 50 vehicles, it has not been possible to determine the losses in full. The Lebanese National Resistnce Front has claimed responsibility for the operation. The enemy has also admitted the operation and reported that two Israeli officers were killed when a land mine exploded under their vehicle. Moreover, the occupation forces intensified their measures during the night on the international highway and set up a roadblock near Galerie Sim'an [in Beirut] where the crew manning it searched a number of cars.

Al-Wazzan Follows Up Investigation

NC161538 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister and Interior Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan is attentively following up the progress of the investigation involving those who have been detained in connection with the attack on the U.S. Marines. Security sources linked today's attack on the U.S. Marines' patrol with the opening of fire on an Italian patrol yesterday and the past incidents with the French contingent. The sources believe that the object of these incidents is to depict the Lebanese Army and the multinational force as incapable of assuming security responsibilities.

Khuri Condemns Attacks

NC161734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister and Interior Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has been following up the progress of the investigation of those detained in connection with the attack on the multinational force until a late hour this afternoon. Prime Minister al-Wazzan today met with Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri. Khuri emphasized the Army's preparedness to assume the security duties and fill every vacuum caused by the withdrawal of the occupation forces. Minister Khuri said: We consider a wound inflicted on a member of the multinational force as a wound inflicted on a member of the Lebanese Army. Therefore, we have been greatly pained by the two attacks yesterday and today, which aroused our indignation and condemnation. They are attacks on security, chivalry, manliness, and the noble aims which this force represents and serves.

Major Haddad Comments

NC170928 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad has commented on the repeated attacks on the multinational force. He told a Voice of Hope correspondent: We strongly denounce these attacks on the multinational force personnel.

We accuse world Communism and its Syrian and leftist agents in Lebanon of carrying out these treacherous attacks. The aggressors begrudge this force because it came to Lebanon not only to help establish peace but also to help the ruling Lebanese right triumph once and for all over the subversive left.

Italian Envoy on Attacks

NC161702 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Italy's ambassador to Lebanon Ottieri Franco Lucioli has commented on the attacks against the multinational force. He told the Voice of Lebanon: These attacks will not prevent us from carrying out our duties and they will not change the course of our action. We will continue to be present here as long as the Lebanese Government wants this. He said in his own voice:

The French contingent was the target of an armed attack a month ago. The attack claimed two or three victims who were seriously injured. It was our turn yesterday and it was the turn of the U.S. force today. This means that we are facing an organized plan to prevent the multinational force from discharging its duties in helping the Lebanese Government -- the government of President al-Jumayyil -- to restore security and stability in Lebanon.

All I can say, the Italian ambassador said, is that these attacks will not prevent us from carrying out our work and they will not change the course of our action. We will continue to be present here as long as the Lebanese Government wants this. He added: This was a hard day for us. I spent a part of last night and this morning in the hospital to be next to these young men who are seriously wounded. Two of them have been paralyzed for life. However, we emphasize that we are here to discharge our duties.

340 Detained in Incident

NC161610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The combing operations carried out by two brigades of the Lebanese Army in the areas of Al-Awza'i, Bi'r Hasan, Burj al-Barajinah, the airport vicinity, and Hayy as-Sullum ended at 1600 this afternoon.

Security sources told the Voice of Lebanon that the raids and combing operations resulted in the detention 340 suspects. The same sources added that there were no shooting incidents during these operations. The U.S. Marine Command has expressed its satisfaction with the Lebanese Army's operation and admired the quick and effective movements during the operation on the basis that it is one of the largest operations carried out inside greater Beirut.

Gunmen had earlier today hurled a handgrenade at a U.S. Marine patrol when it crossed the Al-Maramil crossroad near the airport road. This incident resulted in the wounding of U.S. Marines. It is the second incident of its kind in the past few hours. An Italian patrol was the target of a similar attack last night. The attack resulted in the injury of five Italians. The two operations are the first direct operations against the U.S. and Italian contingents.

CARTER ARRIVES ON UNOFFICIAL VISIT, 16 MAR

Arrival in Damascus

JN161640 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Damascus at 1600 this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Sami Khalil, head of the U.S. desk at the Foreign Ministry; Misbah ad-Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff members.

Received by Hafiz al-Asad

JN161846 Damascus Domestic Television Service 1830 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] At 1800 today President Hafiz al-Asad received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Present at the meeting were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and U.S. ambassador in Damascus Robert Paganelli.

More on Al-Asad-Carter Meeting

JN162112 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] At 1800 today President Hafiz al-Asad received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Present at the meeting were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Robert Paganelli, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

The talks centered on the conditions and circumstances in the region as well as the factors Syria sees as necessary for the achievement of a just and durable peace in the region.

Damascus Commentary

JN161918 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrives in Damascus today on a short visit as part of his Middle East tour. His visit to the region takes place after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the U.S. Administration's moves to exploit the invasion, its results, and the well-known state of affairs in the Arab world to activate the second phase of Camp David, under tht title: Reagan's Proposals on the Middle East, announced on 1 September 1982. This visit also takes place after the U.S. Administration realized that it is difficult to place the region under its control, and in the wake of all the efforts that have been exerted to drag one or more Arab parties to the table of the capitulatory negotiations with Israel and the United States.

Although reports have circulated in U.S. political and informational quarters about the possibility of assigning Carter or Kissinger as the U.S. President's special envoy to the Middle East, Carter's visit is not an official one. Despite all this, the visit of a former U.S. President, whose name is linked with the Middle East through accords -- like the Camp David accords -- with the purpose of conducting talks with the senior officials in the region cannot be a tourist or a private factfinding visit.

When Syria receives former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, despite his stand during his presidency on the Middle East and the current inflammable problems there, and despite the declared opposite stands of the United States and Syria, it receives him to listen to what he has to say and to tell him what it has to say. Syria has never been an introvert and has never avoided dialogue or the exchange of opinions. Syria stated its opinion about the U.S. and Israeli policies and the means for achieving peace in the region at the Seventh Nonaligned Summit in New Delhi through President Hafiz al-Asad. What Syria says on international rostrums, it also says in the conference rooms and during official and unofficial meetings.

Syria's stands have always been characterized by commitment to principles and to a sincere and genuine desire for a just, durable and comprehensive peace. It is regrettable that the Carter administration did not act likewise. President Carter's statements and stands have been inconsistent and many of the positive stands which appeared sometimes in his statements and those of his aides were later reversed. The upshot of the stands of President Carter and his administration were in the interest of Israel, its aggression and its expansionist plans. This is why President Hafiz al-Asad has said more than once that the U.S. Administration is implementing the Zionist policy in the Middle East. The events which have taken place from the time President Carter assumed power in the United States up to now confirm that the U.S. policy, including the Camp David accords, did not and will never achieve peace.

What is taking place in the Middle East and what the peace issue in the region is suffering from are the direct result of the U.S. policy which ignored and continues to ignore the basic and essential conditions necessary to achieve peace in the region; namely, the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination, including the right to establish their national and independent state on their soil, and the election of their legitimate representatives by themselves; and the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the territories they occupied during the 1967 war.

What is regrettable is that the statements which President Jimmy Carter has made during his current tour, especially at the two press conferences in Amman and in occupied Jerusalem, are still far from the acceptable conditions which are necessary to achieve peace in the region.

While U.S. politicians are creating an uproar in the world on human rights and self-determination, we see that they are against these rights in the Middle East and that they champion the theory of the Israeli security which is being used as a cover for the schemes of expansion and aggression which violate the UN Charter, international law, the rights of peoples and human rights. It is strange that the U.S. politicians defend the policy of supporting the Israeli aggression and the Israeli aggressors under the cover of protecting Israel's security while the Israeli invasion and occupation forces are stationed a few kilometers from three Arab capitals at least, and while the Israeli rulers are calling for the Nile and the Euphrates as the borders of the Israel that they want, as the Israeli foreign minister recently declared in the Knesset.

Syria has always said that it is with the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on the UN Charter and resolutions and the people's rights to self-determination. It also showed on many occasions its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and with every sincere international effort to achieve peace in the region. As last years' experiences have demonstrated, Syria can never accept capitulation, or reward aggressors and war criminals. It also will not submit to threats and pressures. President Carter, who met with President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva in 1977, must have realized this basic factor in Syria's policy through his experience during his term in office. He also will discover this during his current visit to Damascus.

SHAMIR RETURNS FROM VISIT TO UNITED STATES

Airport Statement

TA161154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1125 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Let us transfer the broadcast to Ben-Gurion Airport, where the airplane carrying Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who has returned after a week of talks and contact with the leaders of the U.S. Administration, carrying new suggestions for the solution of the Lebanese problems, has just landed. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, is at the airport:

[Schiffer -- live] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir indeed landed here a few minutes ago, and he will now issue a statement to the media:

[Shamir -- live] The talks in Washington, as everyone knows, were conducted at our initiative, and their purpose was to coordinate positions between Israel and the United States, especially in everything that has to do with the problems of Lebanon. In the course of the talks, we also discussed other issues of great significance in the realm of bilateral relations between the United States and Israel. The talks in Washington, with the secretary of state, lasted 3 days and were lengthy, extensive, concentrated, and were held partly in private, partly in limited forums, as well as in full forum with both delegations attending.

On the first day of the talks, our delegation presented Israel's positions before a very broad forum including representatives of all the branches of the U.S. Administration, and all those branches dealing with the Lebanese issue. On the second day, the U.S. Administration presented its own position to us. On the third day an effort was made to bridge the gap between the two sides' positions. This was successful regarding some of the problems, whereas in some of them there is a beginning, and over still others the differences of opinion have remained. It will be necessary to work on those differences and make efforts to reach an agreed-upon position. Continuing contacts and talks will be held in Israel, as part of the negotiations which will be resumed early next week, and outside the negotiations as well.

As everyone knows, the main subject was the Lebanese issue, and we found it necessary to present Israel's positions to the U.S. Administration and Congress, as well as the public. The main thing is that, contrary to how somebody in the United States wanted to present it, Israel has absolutely no intention of or interest in extending the IDF stay in Lebanon in order to gain any kind of political benefit or profit in any sort of area. On the contrary, our goal is to move the IDF from Lebanon as soon as possible. However, it is our duty to guarantee the safety of Israel's northern area before the IDF pulls back, and to set up a new framework for relations between Israel and Lebanon. The deliberations and the discussions were over these two issues -- the security arrangements and the framework of relations between Lebanon and Israel.

I also had a meeting with the President of the United States, which was very friendly and held in a cordial atmosphere. He emphasized his friendship toward Israel and his commitment to Israel's security. Nevertheless, he highlighted the U.S. positions that all the foreign armies must leave Lebanese soil completely as soon as possible, and that it is necessary to reach an agreement over this matter as soon as possible.

The President emphasized the need to hold a close dialogue between Israel and the United States and said among other things -- as has already been published -- that it would be better to have us talk with one another than about one another. He wished to transmit his warmest and friendliest best wishes to Prime Minister Begin.

The talks with the secretary of state, although they were long and at times tiring, were conducted in a substantive and most friendly atmosphere, with the secretary exemplifying an effort of showing sympathy toward our position and an attempt to reach agreed-upon positions. In the course of the talks, new ideas were broached, and I will bring them to the Cabinet in the next few days to discuss, examine, and decide upon. As I have already said, the talk will continue, the negotiations will proceed, but I can say upon having concluded these 3-day talks that I have the feeling that the positions of the United States and Israel are now closer to each other, which is why the chances for reaching an agreement [heskem] over the Lebanese problem are greater. And, what is just as important, we are witnessing an improvement in the ties between Israel and the United States in general, and in particular with regard to some areas which we discussed. Thank you very much.

[Schiffer] Mr Foreign Minister, you talked about a friendly atmosphere and a coordination of positions, yet the reports coming to Israel from the United States say that Washington has not changed its fundamental positions in regard to the two most central questions: that of the continued IDF presence in Lebanon and the issue of the normalization, which should be effected gradually. In what respect, then, do you think you have succeeded in bridging the gaps over these two central matters, which have remained just as they were before your visit?

[Answer] There is a certain closing of the gaps in the positions over these two subjects. As for the specifics, I will report them to the Cabinet.

[Question] Sir, were you not offended by the U.S. Administration's desire to grant your visit and that of the Lebanese foreign minister the same importance, and its desire to host you exactly the same way?

[Answer] No, I was not offended, because I came to hold talks with the United States. While I was there, representatives of other countries were there, too. During those days, as I recall, the prime minister of the Netherlands was also there, as well as other prime ministers whom the secretary of state had to meet.

[Question] Was there no connection between your visit and that of the Lebanese foreign minister?

[Answer] No, From our point of view there was no connection; we did not address ourselves to it. We answered the questions we were asked by saying that we do have direct negotiations with the representatives of Lebanon in the region, and that we came to Washington to talk with the U.S. Administration.

New Proposals 'Reasonable'

TA170718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will today brief Prime Minister Menahem Begin about his talks in the United States.

Government officials who were close to the talks told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that the administration's new proposals submitted to Minister Shamir were reasonable and could be the basis for an arrangement with Lebanon. The officials emphasized that it was made clear to the United States that Israel would not abandon Major Haddad and his soldiers, and that if he were not integrated in the security arrangements in southern Lebanon, an agreement would not be reached.

Policy Shifts Noted

TA171017 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpt] "I think we're not far from an agreement," an Israeli official said enthusiastically yesterday on his return with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from talks in Washington.

The official said the U.S. has "shifted considerably towards the Israeli standpoint on the key issue of substantial cooperation between the Israel Defense Forces and the Lebanese Army." The shift came, he said, on the third day of Shamir's exhaustive talks with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Israeli officials implicitly acknowledge that Shamir, too, shifted ground by indicating that Israel will be prepared to forego its demand for IDF-manned positions in south Lebanon.

But the officials tend to minimize the importance of this shift, arguing that what is important for Israel is the principle of ensuring security in the north, rather than the specific means of achieving that principle.

The softening of the American stance came, according to this Israeli version, after two days of cordial but unproductive talks. Shamir held his ground, and "they saw that the only way to make progress was to move towards us."

Previously, the Israeli officials said, the U.S. favoured only insubstantial contacts between the IDF and the Lebanese Army. Now, Washington is backing the idea of close cooperation on various levels of command (and presumably will impress upon the Lebanese the need to accept such arrangements).

U.S. officials in Washington are still drafting a precise formulation of the new American position, which will be forwarded to Jerusalem in a day or so. It will first be examined by the IDF high command, and will then be submitted, with the IDF's comments, for Cabinet consideration.

Shamir said on Israel television last night that the U.S. ideas are "not yet satisfactory" and Israel is "waiting for more... We hope that Washington will draw closer still to our viewpoint."

But it is reliably understood that Shamir intends to recommend that the Cabinet accept the American proposals.

Shamir is to report to Prime Minister Menahem Begin today. He apparently is confident, on the basis of prior communication, that Begin will go along with the American package.

Shamir's aides speak in terms of a marked success for the foreign minister -- assuming the Cabinet endorses his recommendation. They have scant sympathy for the theory that it was the advent of Moshe Arens to the Defence Ministry and the removal of Ari'el Sharon that catalyzed the new progress towards an agreement over Lebanon.

MA'ARIV on U.S. Proposals

TA161114 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Report from Washington by Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpts] The United States submitted a "proposal package" to Israel yesterday on the security arrangements in southern Lebanon. The package emphasizes "security cooperation" between the Lebanese and Israeli armies, but excludes any armed Israeli presence on Lebanese territory. The proposals include setting up a joint military committee between the two countries' intelligence cooperation between Israeli and Lebanon, and other joint activities, but no joint armed patrols as Israel is demanding.

The proposals were submitted to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday evening. Shamir left Washington yesterday evening and is now on his way back to Israel. He refused to reject them out of hand, stating he would submit them for the consideration of the Israeli Government.

This correspondent has learned that the U.S. proposals also include the presence of U.S. Army "advisers," who will advise the Lebanese Army units to be stationed in the south. One of the brigades to be positioned in the south will be made up of Major Haddad's soldiers. However, according to the proposals submitted yesterday, Haddad himself will play no role there.

The U.S. ideas are based on the principle, to which the United States firmly adheres, that all the IDF soldiers must completely withdraw from Lebanon.

The U.S. readiness to train Lebanese Army units in the south will, in Washington's view, make a U.S. presence possible in southern Lebanon, but outside the framework of the multinational force, whose stationing in the security zone Israel opposes.

A senior U.S. official said yesterday evening that the United States is likely "to accelerate and expand" the plan to train the Lebanese Army. Emphasis will be placed on training small, mobile units, which will be especially drilled in preventing infiltration and conducting patrols.

According to these proposals, additional U.S. involvement in the security arrangements is likely to occur within the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee, in which involvement by U.S. military personnel is possible.

Arms to Jordan Issue

TA170519 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] President Reagan asked Israel not to act to prevent U.S. arms sales to Jordan. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the U.S. President made this request in his talk with Minister Shamir. Reagan explained that King Husayn needed arms due to the threat posed to his country by Syria. U.S. arms may also encourage the Jordanian king to join the peace process, President Reagan believes.

In contrast, Minister Shamir raised the continued delay in the supply of F-16's to Israel. In his talks with his counterpart George Shultz, Shamir called on the Reagan administration to go back on its opposition to supplying the aircraft to Israel due to the increasing Soviet involvement in Syria. Secretary Shultz replied that the decision was not up to him and pointed out that Washington had beeen holding contacts with Moscow to find out the meaning of the stationing of modern missiles in Syria. The Soviets had said that they were not intended for offensive purposes.

CHIEF OF STAFF EYTAN ON SOVIET INTERVENTION

TA161809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan said today that within a few weeks Katyushas would be falling again on the northern settlements if we were to leave Lebanon and so we must stay on in Lebanon to guarantee that we arrive at the security arrangements upon which we are insisting. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports: The chief of staff said that there was not only a security factor in the positioning of the Soviet missiles in Syria, but this Soviet move also had an interpower political goal. Lt Gen Eytan believes that the missiles can, on the one hand, serve as a factor to spur on the Syrians, and on the other, act as a restraining factor, because it is the Russians who are operating the missiles and so they will dictate the Syrian moves. As for staying on in Lebanon, the chief of staff said that if we were to leave Lebanon today, within a few weeks katyushas would again be falling on the northern settlements:

[Begin Eytan recording] Staying on in Lebanon should guarantee that we arrive at the security arrangements we are insisting upon. If we were to leave Lebanon today, as it is, with the situation as it is in Lebanon at present, we would have Katyushas back on the border, very quickly, very quickly. We could even measure this in weeks and perhaps less. And then we would again have to go to war. [end recording]

[Einstein] The chief of staff added that the main problem was who would supervise the security arrangements and how, the arrangements concerning such an agreement would be attained, because it was clear that the Government of Lebanon would not, on its own, be able to fulfill the role.

The chief of staff refused to express his opinion about the appointment of Major General Moshe Levi to the post of the next IDF chief of staff.

REACTION TO USSR ENVOY IN LEBANON STATEMENTS

TA170937 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Mar pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has no intention of attacking Syria and we should not be dragged into the panic atmosphere the Soviets are trying to create in the region. This was said this morning by a senior political source in the prime minister's office in reaction to statements made by Soviet ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov, according to which the USSR will intervene if a war breaks between Israel and Syria.

The senior Israeli spokesman said: "The statements of the Soviet ambassador in Beirut were intended to hint to the United States and to Israel: 'We are here' -- and this is the first official expression of the increasing Soviet involvement in Syria and its direct intervention in what is happening today in Lebanon.

The Israeli spokesman noted that the increasing involvement and stepped up Soviet escalation in the area should concern the United States as much as it concerns Israel. According to him, the Soviets increased their involvement in the area through sending modern weapon systems -- SAM-5 and SAM-8 batteries and more experts -- while taking the most advantage of the mistakes in the U.S. policy in Lebanon and the evacuation of the foreign forces, when this was possible with no special difficulties.

The senior spokesman noted that Israel expects the United States to act against the Soviet challenge since it is, in the first place, a subject that should worry Washington, whose policy enabled the increased Soviet penetration in the region and the strengthening of its influence over today's events in Lebanon.

ISRAELI TELEVISION INTERVIEWS SA'D HADDAD

JN161830 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Interview with Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon, with television correspondent Salman Tawil; videotaped -- date not given]

[Text] [Question] During the peace talks between Israel and Lebanon, the idea of establishing joint patrols made up of Israeli forces, perhaps U.S. forces, and the participation of your forces was mentioned. What is your opinion about this?

[Answer] I have heard of such an idea but I did not study it carefully. I, however, believe that it would not be a good idea because acts of aggression against such patrols, if they were established, would multiply and the consequences would be disastrous. Therefore, I do not recommend it.

[Question] Major Sa'd Haddad, you recently warned Israel about the possibility of alien elements entering the region to carry out killings in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. Do you have information on this subject?

[Answer] I have not given warnings about alien elements. I have warned about the perpetration of acts of aggression, liquidation or massacres in the Palestinian camps, perhaps by elements present in the area because there are many factions in the area who carry weapons and they do not all receive orders from one command. Therefore, it is difficult to control them. At the end, and if something of this sort takes place, God forbid, Israel will be blamed.

Therefore, I recommend that all the elements be unified under one command in southern Lebanon to prevent the occurrence of such acts.

ARENS, LEWIS MEET OVER IDF-MARINES TENSION

TA161217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis conferred last night with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the two discussed the tension between the U.S. Marines in Beirut and the IDF. Ambassador Lewis expressed concern over the incidents, while Minister Arens emphasized that it is necessary to find a way to stop them.

Our political correspondent notes that it looks as though the reason for the tension lies in the different interpretations of the two parties to the agreement [heskem] over the IDF's jurisdiction and that of the Marines in Beirut.

JERUSALEM SOURCES COMMENT ON LEWIS REMARKS

TA161243 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Report by political correspondent Tuviya Mendelson]

[Text] Israeli-U.S. relations have been in a "difficult state" in the past year.

A distance accompanied by mutual distrust has been created between the two countries' leaders. These remarks were made yesterday by U.S. ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis.

Referring to the negotiations with Lebanon, Ambassador Lewis said that the still unanswered question is what the Syrian position will be on the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon. According to reliable sources, Lewis said he was skeptical about Syria's willingness to leave Lebanon, adding that this view was shared by politicians and other administration figures involved in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. The ambassador's remarks last night were reported by reliable sources, who attended his address to the U.S. delegates to the World Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Political observers in Jerusalem said last night that the remarks attributed to Ambassador Lewis were unprecedentedly sharp and contradicted the pronouncements made by U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick, President Reagan's representative to the conference on Soviet Jewry, at the press conference she held in Jerusalem.

According to the reliable sources Ambassador Lewis said that Israel and the United States have experienced periods of tension and calm in their relations. He recalled that in the first 4 months of 1978 there were good relations between the two countries, but that before the Camp David peace talks, when Prime Minister Menahem Begin left Israel for a meeting with President Jimmy Carter, their meeting ended in an atmosphere of bitterness.

The sources cited Samuel Lewis as saying that relations began to deteriorate after the passage of the Golan law in Israel, and that tensions continued and escalated during the war in Lebanon. According to the sources, the state of relations between Israel and the United States was described by the U.S. ambassador as tragic, in light of the special relationship that had always existed between Jerusalem and Washington. He expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would improve this spring, noting that the talks in Washington between Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir are indicative of this.

According to the reliable sources, Ambassador Lewis listed several reasons for the tension between the two countries, noting in this context that not only in the United States but also in Israel the aims and objectives of the war were not understood by part of the public. This was the first war in Israel that gave rise to opposition and criticism both in the public and in the army, the ambassador said, and this opposition and criticism increased after the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

Lewis said that Lebanese reality does not coincide with the results Israel expected from the war, but that nevertheless, the public opinion polls in Israel show extensive support for Prime Minister Menahem Begin and his police. According to the sources the ambassador stressed that public opinion polls are an important subject in Israel. Lewis was further quoted as saying that history will decide whether the war and the deaths of its victims had not been in vain.

The sources added ~~that Ambassador~~ Lewis said that in the negotiations conducted by the United States, there are still gaps between the positions of the sides, but he voiced the hope that it will be possible to achieve an understanding between Beirut and Jerusalem, and to ensure that southern Lebanon no longer poses a threat to Israel's northern border. In this context, Lewis said that he was not optimistic regarding Syria's readiness to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, adding -- according to the sources -- that if the negotiations with Lebanon succeed this will help to improve relations with the United States.

The key question for the future is the fate of the West Bank. The sources said that Lewis mentioned Reagan's initiative of 1 September last year, noting that the plan evoked an angry reaction in Jerusalem because Israel had not been consulted prior to the plan's release.

The peace with Egypt does not satisfy Israel either, Lewis said, and the expectations that relations between Israel and Egypt will be similar to those between the United States and Canada have not materialized.

Ambassador Lewis reportedly said that if King Husayn voices his readiness to join the peace talks, it will be possible to renew the peace process and this may contribute to a new rapprochement between Israel and the United States.

Political observers in Jerusalem pointed out yesterday that they do not recall such unequivocal pronounements by the ambassador in the past on outstanding political issues and on differences between the two countries. However, it should be noted that Lewis opened his address by stressing that since he was speaking to a U.S. audience, his remarks would be "off the record," that is not for publication.

The political observers expressed their surprise that dozens of people attended the meeting with Lewis. The evaluation in Jerusalem was that Lewis' pronouncements last night were not coincidental and that they may be indicative of the fact that the administration in Washington was displeased with the positions presented by Foreign Minister Shamir in his talks with Secretary of State Shultz and President Reagan.

IDF SHOOTS TO DISPERSE LEBANON DEMONSTRATION

TA161233 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1227 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] IDF soldiers were forced to shoot in the air about an hour ago to disperse a demonstration staged by hundreds of youths near the 'Ayn al-Hulswah refugee camp in Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that the youths threw stones at soldiers at a roadblock not far from the refugee camps, and then the soldiers threw a smoke grenade. When even that failed to help, they were forced to shoot in the air. IDF units were rushed to the place to disperse the demonstrators.

TWO IDF OFFICERS KILLED BY MINE EAST OF BEIRUT

TA161905 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Two IDF officers were killed at noon when their vehicle hit a mine in the (Tahlah) region about 5 km east of Beriut. The IDF spokesman has reported that the killed are Major Shim'on (Mendil), aged 26, from Rishon Letziyons and Captain Me'ir Shlomo Weizman, aged 35, from Giryat Gi'ora. Our military correspndent Shmu'el Tal says that it appears that the mine was planted recently, because the vehicle in which the officers were traveling was moving along a dirt road that is used every day.

IDF OFFICERS BELIEVE ATTACKS ON MNF TO CONTINUE

TA161748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Senior IDF officers think that the attempts to hurt the soldiers from the Multinational Force [MFN] in Beirut will be stepped up. They told our military corresponent Shemu'el Tal that these hostiles acts will grow worse because the MNF soldiers are close to the places were the terrorists are trying to reorganize. Officers from the MNF told correspondents that those attempts are the beginning of a campaign to oust the MNF from Lebanon.

SECRET LEBANESE POLITICAL DELEGATION VISIT

TA161708 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, which leads the National Front linking the PLO and the pro-Syrian elements in Lebanon, is currently in Israel and has been here for several days on a secret visit. The visit was reported for the first time by the Voice of Lebanon radio.

The delegation now in Israel is headed by Dr ('Ataf Salum), who was the confidant of the late Kamal Junblatt, the father of the current leader Walid. Dr (Salum) has fulfilled many missions in the Arab world and was one of those who worked for Arab intervention in Lebanon. The delegation also includes Hism Nasir ad-Din and has already met with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, 'Ezer Weizman, Knesset members and others. The delegation members claimed in their talks that they had been given a mandate by those who had sent them to establish permanent relations with Israel on condition that the IDF helped them to keep sole control over the regions of the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh. The delegation also wants to be received by the prime minister.

POLL SHOWS CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARD LEBANON WAR

TA161453 Jerusalem KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 p 20

[Report by Eliyahu Hasin based on a public opinion poll conducted by Dr Mina Tzemah ("Dahaf")]

[Text] Time after time, from various points of view, the regular public opinion poll conducted by the research institute close to "Dahaf" has checked the attitude of the public toward the war in Lebanon. During the third week of January the poll checked the question from the point of view of the overall balance. That is, after the war developed the way it did, was it right, on the whole, for Israel to begin the war to begin with?

The results of this poll were published in issue No 12 of KOTERET RASHIT and they showed, as might be recalled, that the majority that supported the war in Lebanon diminished continually -- from 84 percent versus 13 percent in June-July of last year, to 61 percent versus 36 percent in January of this year.

During the last week of February the poll sponsored by KOTERET RASHIT checked the subject from an angle completing the picture. Those 1,188 people interviewed were asked "with an overall look backwards" which of the three main attitudes toward the war was found to be the most correct: not to begin the war at all; make do with taking control of a security zone of 40-45 km only; or to run the war as it was done (including going into Beirut, taking over the Ash-Shuf mountains etc).

The answers reflect the attitudes of the entire adult Jewish population, and were divided according to the following percentage:

	All the public	Alignment Supporters	Likud Supporters	"Floating voices"
Not to begin at all	12	20	7	9
40-45 km only	49	64	37	63
As it was run	36	14	54	24
Did not answer	3	2	2	4
Total	100	100	100	100

Up until now the demonstrations against the scope of the war in Lebanon were received with a very sharp reaction in the street, and often with a violent reaction. In face of the date in this poll, it seems that the reaction in the street does not reflect the mood in the general public. Even among the Likud supporters the support of the war in its extended form only just passed the middle line. On the other hand only a minority thinks that the war should not have been started at all.

ISRAELI-EGYPT TALKS ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

TA161927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] This evening, the talks in Cairo between the commercial delegations of Israel and Egypt ended. The director of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Avraham Asheri, said that he was absolutely confident that these talks would soon have genuine results and that Egypt had hinted that it intended to make things easier in trade with Israel. The head of the Egyptian delegation, (Ahmad Wufa ad-Din), expressed optimism about the results of the deliberations.

BEGIN ADVISER REFUTES AMERICAN HEALTH REPORTS

TA161556 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by Yosi Bar]

[Excerpts] The well-known Jewish American journalist Joseph Kraft, who has recently been visiting Israel, published an article yesterday [in the WASHINGTON POST] based on his impressions of his visit to Israel in which he depicts Prime Minister Menahem Begin as being in a bad mental state and recently being almost unable to function.

The prime minister's adviser on communications affairs, Uri Porat, said this morning in reaction to the article: "These are remarks written by a frustrated, dissatisfied man who was insulted because the prime minister did not grant his request to be given an exclusive interview. His slanderous remarks are not worthy of reaction and his psychological evaluations perhaps indicate his own condition."

MK DRUCKMAN HEADS NEW RELIGIOUS PARTY

TA161542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] This evening the establishment of a new religious party, called Matzad, the acronym for the Religious Zionism Party [Mahane Hatzi'onut Hadatit], was announced at a meeting in Tel Aviv. It is headed by MK Hayim Druckman. Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum reports that MK Druckman will resign from the National Religious Party [NRP] within the next few days. The new party will compete in the Knesset elections and those for the local authorities.

NEW IAI-MADE ARMORED TRUCK RELEASED

TA162039 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Re'em is the name of a new armored fighting vehicle which was revealed today for the first time to the media.

The Re'em, manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industry [IAI], possesses high penetrability and defense measures for the fighters who sit in it. It is also used for patrolling duties and antitank TOW missiles can be fired from it. Our correspondent [illegible] Gott tells about the Re'em.

[Begin videotape] [Gott] The Re'em is the new generation; it was preceded a few years ago by Rabi, an Israeli armored fighting vehicle, made by Israel. This is the only four-wheeled fighting vehicle used by the IDF, all the other vehicles move on tracks, or on tracks and wheels.

The Re'em is very fast and has a high penetration level. On a good road it can go up to 90 kmh. The vehicle is cheap to maintain and mobile. It goes from place to place on its own and does not need carriers.

There are a few types of Re'em. As a fighting tool, it is used by 6 fighters and three machine guns. A mortar and an RPG launcher can be fixed on it, and then all fighting is done from the vehicle. Two antiaircraft 20 mm cannons can be fixed on it, and three aircraft crewmen can work from it. A TOW missile launcher can also be fixed on the Re'em.

[Unidentified IAI official] This is a vehicle whose first generation is already used by the IDF and which took part in the IDF wars. We expect this vehicle will be used extensively in the IDF, and of course, we will export it abroad as well.

[Gott] One of the Re'em's greatest advantages is its small size and low profile. It can be flown in cargo planes and helicopters.

At the end of the developing stages it is expected in the IAI that its purchase by the IDF will make it easier to sell it abroad, thus opening a new channel for defense exports from Israel. [end recording]

EYTAN SAYS MERKAVA BETTER THAN M-1 TANK

TA161105 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] "The IDF's Merkava tank is better in what it can do than the modern U.S. tank, the M-1," Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan told BAMAHANE in reaction to the U.S. intention to sell Saudi Arabia many of these modern tanks. His remarks appear in today's issue of the magazine.

Eytan thinks that the Saudis' possession of the U.S. army's most modern tank cannot affect the IDF's armor any more than the British Chieftain tank which has been sold to the Jordanians, or the Soviet T-72 tank which the Syrians have.

WEST BANK DISTURBANCES CALLED 'NOT SPONTANEOUS'

TA161350 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The head of Central Command has said that recent disturbances in the administered territories are not spontaneous. He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the army is taking steps against agitators, but the tendency is not to resort to administrative detention. From the Knesset, Jack Katzenell reports:

Appearing before the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee were the head of Central Command, Major General Ori Or, the coordinator of activities in the administered territories and the head of the civil administration. Gen Or told the committee there is a guiding hand behind the disturbances, which are usually timed to coincide with events such as the visit of former President Jimmy Carter. Gen Or predicted that the unrest would resume near the anniversary of Land Day, at the end of the month. The root of the problem is political, he said. They, the Arab population, just do not want us there.

Moods Assessed

TA160950 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0938 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The commander of the Central Command, Ori Or, believes that the wave of disturbances and violations of the public order in Judaea and Samaria will increase toward Land Day at the end of this month. He was appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as part of a debate on the disturbances and riots in Judaea and Samaria. The debate was also attended by the coordinator of activities in the territories, Rehavya Vardi, and the head of the Judaea and Samaria civilian administration, Shlomo Ilia. The three pointed out that the means at their disposal to overcome the riots are limited. They said they do not have the ability to hold people on administrative detention.

CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA161411 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by Gabi Kessler]

[Text] The Agriculture Ministry is about to launch a tour campaign in Judaea and Samaria for those interested in settling there. The campaign was initiated by Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikha'el Deqel, who has asked the Knesset Finance Committee for a budget of 2 million shekels to operate the tours and publicize the drive.

Because of the resemblance between the planned tours and the "we are on the map operation" initiated by then Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon on the eve of the Knesset elections, the state comptroller has intervened in the matter, seeking details about the new tour plan prepared by the Agriculture Ministry.

It has been reported from the Agriculture Ministry that because of the matter's sensitivity, it was decided to implement the plan only if the Finance Committee does not oppose it, and in preliminary coordination with the state comptroller's office, in order to avert criticism after the fact.

Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich is not enthusiastic about his deputy's initiative, and therefore he decided to tell the state comptroller about it in advance. The Finance Committee has been told that the proposed tours in Judaea and Samaria would be operated by the Jewish National Fund and the Government Information center.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES SDAR PRESIDENT 14 MAR

LD142021 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Mar 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mohammed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and secretary general of the Polisario. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, as well as Mohammed Lamine, Saharan minister of education, and [name indistinct], foreign relations official of the Polisario, were present at the meeting.

BENDJEDID RECEIVES BOUCETTA, HASSAN II MESSAGE

LD161936 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, this morning received M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign minister, who handed the president a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmad Talib al-Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

DPRK OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT 16 MAR

LD170959 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Hwang Chang-yop, head of the standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arrived in Algiers today for an official visit at the invitation of Brother Rabih Bitat, member of the Political Bureau and speaker of the National People's Assembly [NPA].

The delegation was welcomed on arrival at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother Jallul Malai'kah, deputy speaker of the NPA, and Abdelaziz Mohamed, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Assembly. The Korean official expressed satisfaction at being in Algeria, which has had strong links of friendship with Korea for a long time, links which flourished during the joint struggle against imperialism and colonialism. He said his visit would allow him to exchange views with Algerian officials on the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. After highlighting the struggle of the Algerian and the Korean peoples for independence, friendship and peace he expressed confidence that his visit would contribute to broadening and developing the relations of cooperation between the two countries and would consolidate the unity of the nonaligned.

The Korean delegation this afternoon held talks with a delegation of the NPA led by Brother Rabih Bitat. This meeting permitted a profound exchange of views on bilateral relations -- in particular the development of parliamentary cooperation -- as well as international issues of common interest. Concerning the unnatural division of Korea, both sides stressed the need for a political solution guaranteeing the peaceful unification of Korea.

EL MOUDJAHID VIEWS OUTCOME OF NONALIGNED SUMMIT

PM151657 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13 Mar 83 p 1

[Mohamed Louber article: "Self-Reliance First"]

[Text] The first positive assessment to be drawn from the conclusions of the Seventh Nonaligned Summit Conference is the movement's ability to adapt to the profound changes taking place in contemporary international relations. This is an undeniable success especially in view of the situation, which is characterized by a resurgence of imperialism's aggressiveness toward all the progressive forces in the world.

Far from being undermined -- which was to be feared -- the movement's cohesion has been increased, and its profound nature based on the liberation and emancipation of peoples have been reaffirmed and expressed through a whole series of texts adopted on all aspects of current international life.

And it is no accident that particular attention was devoted to the movement's original principles, whose permanence and relevance the members gathered in New Delhi noted and to which, moreover, they devoted a resolution.

Thus, despite all attempts at division and all diversionary maneuvers, despite the burden of the negative factors left by the long colonial night suffered by virtually all Third World countries, essential matters prevailed over secondary matters thanks to a unitary approach based on affirmation and recovery. And the discussions and speeches by the delegation chiefs, especially President Bendjedid's speech, centered basically on development problems. The nonaligned countries were forced to note with regret that the majority of the world's population is still not finding a satisfactory response to its legitimate aspiration to play a more practical part in the decisions which determine the economic environment which it necessarily has to share with the industrialized countries. Indeed, contemporary international relations are obviously of a world nature and are part of a world network which, thanks to progress in communications, prohibits any isolationist view. The days when two empires could ignore each other are over once and for all.

Thus, since the problem is of a global nature, as President Bandjedid stressed, it requires a global answer. However, the call must be heeded if a new more viable world economic order is to be built on the ruins of the disintegrating Bretton Woods system. For that to be done, the underlying causes of the imbalance and the unequal exchange must be remedied. And it must first be accepted that underdevelopment is a historical phenomenon which is explicable and not accidental. It results from the different forms of colonialist exploitation be they direct -- before the formerly colonized countries gained independence -- or disguised under cooperation which is seemingly equitable but whose mechanisms merely keep peripheral countries under the economic guardianship which some people rightly describe as neocolonialism. Unless this historical fact is perceived, the rules of the game cannot be established on the basis of consultation and equity.

Furthermore the vacillation, delaying tactics and increasing signs of protectionism which have characterized the various attempts at North-South dialogue cannot make it possible to define a consistent policy for redistributing factors of prosperity at world level. Such an outlook requires structures and mentalities to be changed. This is because much more than mere political will or declarations of intent are needed to exorcize the specter of a world shortage of resources which the world economic crisis, engendered by the very nature of the international economic system, is likely to produce.

In other words, action to change unequal relations must form part of a dialectic of struggle which presupposes -- at the same time as global negotiations -- the extension of the method in the nonaligned countries which must find within themselves the ways and means of defending their vital interests.

On the hand it is necessary to strengthen South-South cooperation in the framework of collective autonomy which, more than de facto solidarity, implies a real strategy of horizontal cooperation. On the other hand to start a process of internal development, giving it a national character and identity without which any collective effort, especially at the level of producers' associations, would be nullified. The example of OPEC's present vicissitudes is edifying in this connection.

LIBYA

ARAB COUNCIL CONDEMNS PRESENCE OF U.S. FLEET

LD161944 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 2, Mar 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The Council of Representatives at the Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress [APC] has condemned the aggressive presence of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Alexandria and which is geared to terrorize the Libyan Arab people. The council denounced the shameful stands of the Egyptian regime by welcoming the U.S. fleet destroyers and aircraft carrier Nimitz.

During the meeting held by the A.P.C. council here last night to prepare for the 1st meeting of the A.P.C. Secretariat in 1983 in Tripoli between 19-21 March, the council called upon the Egyptian revolutionary force and the Arab masses to live up to their responsibility and face the imperialist infiltration of the U.S. military forces which exercise a dirty role to suppress the freedom of the Arab people and crush the nationalist and progressive spirit in the Arab world.

It condemned the blatant interference of the U.S. forces in the Arab region reflected in all forms of terrorism and aggression and unlimited support for the Zionist enemy.

Tripoli Reports Protests

LD162344 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The storm of public anger and protestation in the Jamahiriya against the visit to Alexandria by components of the U.S. 6th Fleet, components which were repeatedly and openly used to provoke the Libyan Arab people, continues. For the third consecutive day, public demonstrations [word indistinct] in (Gatran), Suq Al-Khamis, Barqin, (?Al-Shati'), [word indistinct] and Tauorga expressing anger, protest, and defiance at the aggressive provocations of the U.S. 6th Fleet. Statements issued after the angry demonstrations emphasized that the official reception in Alexandria by the Egyptian regime for the American nuclear aircraft carrier Nimitz and a number of other members of the U.S. 6th Fleet, which had engaged in repeated terrorist aggression against the Jamahiriya, is a provocative [word indistinct] act against the Libyan Arab people. The masses emphasized in their statements that by this dirty act the Egyptian regime has made Egypt a military base for American imperialism that threatens the Arab nation and its free will. The masses participating in the angry demonstrations reiterated their insistence to confront the arrogant provocations of the American administration which is trying to damage the giant achievements of the Libyan Arab people through the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

JALLUD ARRIVES IN SOVIET UNION 16 MARCH

LD161804 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud arrived in Moscow at noon today on a visit to the Soviet Union in the framework of the cooperative relations between the two countries.

On his arrival at the Moscow airport, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud was received by Mr Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Reportage on Visit

For Soviet media accounts of the visit to the USSR by 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, "member for the revolutionary leadership of Libya," see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 17 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

TRADE OF OIL FOR FRENCH WARPLANES REPORTED

LD152000 Kuwait KUNA in English 1919 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 15 (KUNA) -- Libya anxiously trying to strengthen its air defence system has agreed to supply oil to France in return for 20 French Mirage 2000 and 'Super Etendard' planes, it was reported here Tuesday. The decision was taken by Libya after secret diplomatic endeavours between Paris and Tripoli proved successful and the two countries convened here last week a meeting of their joint commission for economic, technical, cultural and scientific cooperation.

The meeting which was attended by the French minister of foreign trade and Libyan planning minister Fawzi al-Shakshuki was described by political observers here as a 'dialogue' between the two countries to improve relations which were strained following Libyan intervention in Chad, the closure of French Embassy in Tripoli and a series of charges and countercharges against each other since the beginning of 1980.

Official sources here believe that the French oil companies 'CFP and Elf-Aquitaine' have already entered into negotiations with Libyan oil authorities to conclude a one year deal to import Libyan oil. If everything goes well between the two countries, the sources added, the French authorities would soon make it known public that it was ready to supply Mirage and Super Etendard planes to Libya.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

LD162342 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A protocol on cooperation between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Socialist Republic of Romania in the fields of communications and maritime and air transportation was signed this morning in Tripoli. The protocol includes an agreement on cooperation between the two countries in the fields on roads, railways, telecommunications, training and joint investments. The protocol was signed for Libya by the brother secretary of communications and maritime transport, and for Romania by Vasile Bulucea, minister of transportation and telecommunications. The protocol comes within the framework of implementing the agreements on joint cooperation between the two friendly countries, which were agreed upon during the visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania by the brother leader of the revolution last January.

Romanian Minister Ends Visit

LD162345 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Romanian Transportation Minister Vasile Bulucea, and the accompanying delegation, left Tripoli this afternoon. Mr Vasile emphasized in a statement to a JANA correspondent, in which he praised the civilized achievements of the Libyan Arab people through the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, his satisfaction regarding the results of his visit to the Jamahiriyah. He stressed that his visit will contribute to supporting and reinforcing cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Romania.

JANA: ITALIAN RELATIONS JEOPARDIZED BY STATEMENT

LD151149 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Mar (JANA) -- The Italian newspaper EPOCO has published a statement attributed to the Italian foreign minister, Emilio Colombo, which smacks of the American reactionary fabrications about an alleged Libyan threat to the Sudan and Egypt. The Italian minister made intimations which are harmful to the developing relations between the two countries. He sought to dwell on a matter which in essence consists of mere allegations. The intentions behind these allegations are clear, particularly since they originate from a superpower which constantly provokes the Libyan people politically, economically, and militarily.

This official stand, expressed by the Italian minister, is no more than a blind repetition of the same pretexts and allegations leveled by the United States against Libya.

One cannot but regret to see such an attitude on the part of a man who is expected to scrutinize, verify, and deal with facts and the reality which prompted the other, alleging parties to admit that there was no Libyan threat to either the Sudan or Egypt or, for that matter, to any other country -- not to mention the fact that the Italian minister himself had been informed of the Libyan denials of any intention to interfere in anybody's affairs or commit aggression against anyone.

Emilio Colombo is quoted as having said that we have witnessed a period of tension between the United States and Libya because of some military moves and initiatives of an unspecified nature by Tripoli. Colombo, furthermore, said that the United States took some precautionary measures in the form of the deployment of AWACS aircraft and the movement of the aircraft carrier Nimitz.

These utterances by the Italian foreign minister are contrary to the facts and constitute flagrant accusations which are in form and content akin to the American allegations and accusations which aim at justifying aggression against the Libyan Arab people who are defending their freedom and who desire to live in peace and security.

We denounce these statements which pursue a line contrary to the one we had hoped to see and which is necessary for the maintenance of close relations of cooperation between Libya and Italy. We believe that the Italian people cannot but support our denunciation.

BRIEFS

FRENCH AGREEMENT -- Paris, Jumada 28, Mar 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The joint Libyan Arab-French committee signed a draft agreement yesterday in Paris on joint economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. The French minister of external trade, Michel Jobert, expressed satisfaction at Libyan Arab-French cooperation and further praised the spirit of cooperation during the proceedings of the joint committee. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1409 GMT 12 Mar 83 LD]

MOROCCO

PLO OFFICIAL ON 'ARAFAT-HASSAN II DISCUSSION

LD151612 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Fes early today after a short visit to put an end to the long controversy over PLO representation in the seven-member committee delegation due to visit London on 18 March 1983 under the chairman of King Husayn of Jordan.

Following extensive talks lasting 4 hours between the Moroccan monarch and Yasir 'Arafat, the Moroccan monarch accompanied 'Arafat in his private car on a tour of the Fes countryside, after they had agreed on a number of issues discussed. Concerning the nature of these talks, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, official in charge of the PLO unified information service, told KUNA that they had "covered the call for a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee following the Zionist aggression against the holy mosque, the next move of the seven-member committee after the London visit, the results of the nonaligned summit, the need to exploit the adoption by the nonaligned group of the Fes summit resolutions at the international level, the results of the recent PNC meeting, and the summit meeting between the Moroccan monarch and the Algerian president on 26 March."

'Abd ar-Rahman added: "During the meeting 'Arafat agreed with the Moroccan monarch that the organization be represented by (Walid al-Khalidi), head of the Palestinian Studies Foundation and a visiting professor to American universities. They also agreed that the seven-member committee will hold an assessment meeting on 27 and 28 March at the foreign ministers level in Fes, and that an extraordinary meeting of the Jerusalem committee will be held at the same time at 'Arafat's request."

'Abd ar-Rahman concluded his statement by saying that the visit was positive and defined the plans for the next moves at the Arab and international levels.

SUDAN

VOLUNTEER CONTINGENT RETURNS FROM IRAQ

GF131406 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 11 Mar 83 p 1

[AL-MADINAH dispatch from Khartoum]

[Text] About 400 Sudanese volunteers who had been in Iraq during the past 3 months as a part of the 3,000-man Sudanese contingent have returned to Sudan. AL-MADINAH has learned that these returning volunteers have completed the first contract period which was 3 months and refused to extend their stay there for different reasons. Other groups of volunteers have remained, playing different military roles alongside the Iraqi troops.

One of the arriving volunteers said that only one person was killed and some others wounded from his group. He denied the casualty reports carried by Iranian sources. This source said that the volunteers or those who went with the regular troops were aware that they were going to fight and not on a holiday and that martyrdom, injury or capture is something natural in such a big war. He said that Iranian sources have carried exaggerated reports on casualties among the Sudanese in Iraq.

Sudanese sources said that the pressures and military troubles, to which Sudan was recently subjected on its western, eastern or southern borders were aimed at and are still aimed at forcing Sudan to withdraw its troops from Iraq or at least to foil any Sudanese attempts to send more troops to Iraq.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BARDAI RADIO REPORT ON HOSTAGES REFUTED

AB151044 Paris AFP in French 0941 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Bangui, 15 Mar (AFP) -- The CAR Government has affirmed that it has "never negotiated nor does it intend to negotiate" with the legal authorities of Chad the exchange of an "imaginary hostage" against Chadian refugees. In an official communique delivered to AFP in Bangui on Tuesday, the CAR Government also affirmed that no Chadian refugee in the CAR has been "handed over" to Chad's legal authorities.

On 8 March, Radio Bardai (the radio of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government) monitored in Lome accused the CAR Government of having handed over 300 political refugees to Hissein Habre's Chadian authorities in exchange for "a CAR general being held hostage in Ndjamena." In their communique, the authorities in Bangui strongly denounced these "allegations" and affirmed that such procedures are contrary to the "practice" of the CAR Government and the customs of the CAR which is a "land of refuge, peace, and justice." The communique explained that the CAR applies a policy of the right of refuge in accordance with international conventions.

Finally, the CAR Government believes that the authors of these "fantastic" reports are only trying to "discredit" the CAR and poison relations between sovereign states.

CONGO

PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO ON STATE VISIT TO DPRK

For DPRK media accounts of the visit to Pyongyang by a Congolese delegation led by Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of the Congo, see the North Korea section of the 15 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Addresses Banquet in Pyongyang

SK121715 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1636 GMT 12 Mar 83

[Text] Pyongyang March 12 (KCNA) -- Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Party of Labor and president of the People's Republic of the Congo, made a speech at a grand banquet arranged in his honor by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Follows the full text of his speech:

Most respected Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, comrades and friends, since our arrival in Pyongyang, the capital of your beautiful country, this morning we have been an object of warm and enthusiastic welcome. This atmosphere of general joy is a clear manifestation of our friendly relations forged long before, and all the peoples of Korea and the Congo are rejoiced at this.

We live in a century of great rapprochement of peoples based on friendship, solidarity and mutual respect. The reasons are numerous: the common struggle against imperialism, the struggle for national construction and the advent of a society free from exploitation of man by man.

Comrade President, I would like to convey to you and to the entire Korean people, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fraternal and warm greetings of the Congolese people, their party and their government. I take this opportunity to express my most heartfelt thanks to you for your kind invitation extended me and warmest welcome reserved for us. Your meticulous care shown to us is an important token of the time-honored hospitality characterizing the Korean people.

We have come from the Congo to express our solidarity with the Korean people, exchange with their leaders experiences of the two countries and strengthen through this our relations of friendship and cooperation so necessary in the contemporary world. The Congolese people, as you know, have always expressed unstinted support to the just cause of the Korean people guided by their great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious Workers' Party of Korea. The Korean people's struggle to defend the North, liberate the South and reunify the country by peaceful means is a must cause. It has enjoyed and will always enjoy great support.

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song, we attended the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit Conference held in New Delhi. This conference was attended by many countries of the South. The general trend of our time is the struggle for the consolidation of political independence, economic liberation of our countries and South-South cooperation. In their speeches at the Seventh Non-Aligned Summit Conference, many delegates unanimously condemned the present world economic order and stressed the need to take concrete actions for more effective South-South cooperation. They condemned misdeeds of imperialism everywhere in the world and supported the struggle of the peoples of Korea, Palestine, Namibia, South Africa, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, etc.

Dear comrades, in Africa, as you know, the situation is very tense notably in the southern part. The South African racist regime, with the zealous support of imperialism, continue occupying Namibia and is trying to keep the black people under the odious and abominable regime of exploitation and apartheid. We are deeply grateful for your consistent and active support to the just cause of the Namibian and South African peoples.

Comrade President, my visit to Korea is aimed at strengthening and promoting all the relations existing between our two countries. The Congolese people united around the Congolese Party of Labor are bringing to a new plane their relations with other peoples, particulary with the peoples of the South Hemisphere.

We consider it to be a fundamental demand to strengthen the relations of solidarity and friendship with other countries, while making all efforts to carry out the first five-year plan covering the period 1982-1986, the purpose of which is to lay the foundations of an independent national economy. The Congolese-Korean cooperation is not new. We hope, on the occasion of my current visit, to promote such cooperation and concretely examine possible problems.

With this conviction, I invite you to raise your glasses;

To the good helth and long life of respected Comrade Kim Il-song;

To the health and prosperity of the fraternal Korean people;

To the health of all of you present here; and

To the Congolese-Korean friendship and solidarity.

Thank you.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

OFFICIALS ARRESTED IN GOVERNMENT 'CRACKDOWN'

AB161413 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Madrid, March 16 (AFP) -- A former ambassador of Equatorial Guinea has been condemned to hard labour and several other prominent personalities imprisoned following a crackdown by the military government, according to the chairman of the opposition Equatorial Guinea Progress Party, Severo Moto. Mr Moto said that the former Equatorial ambassador to Paris, Julian Esono, was serving a hard labour sentence in Malabo, but he did not give the duration. Mr Esono was first placed under house arrest for several days before being convicted of embezzlement for misappropriating 400,000 to one million francs (57,000 to 143,000 dollars), which Mr Moto said were earmarked for the family of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema.

Mr Moto also said that the governor of the Bank of Equatorial Guinea, Martin Ncogo Eyi, and the director of the Credit and Development Bank Luis Nkumu Ela, both of whom were "close" to the president, had been arrested and accused of illegally exporting foreign currency, along with other government employees from economic departments.

He said that several spontaneous demonstrations had in the past two weeks taken place in Malabo, and in towns on the mainland such as Bata to protest against increases in the cost of living and food shortages.

Mr Moto, a former Equatorial Guinea secretary of state for information, recently announced the formation of his party which is calling for a general election this year under United Nations supervision, a general amnesty and the legalisation of political parties.

Travellers returning from Equatorial Guinea quoted by EL PAIS newspaper said today that checks on passengers at Malabo and Bata airports have become extremely strict, and emigrants returning home are stripped and searched. The travellers said they believed the searches were to prevent the illegal entry of foreign currency into the country. The same sources said that thousands of people from Equatorial Guinea had in recent months left for neighboring Cameroon, Gabon or Nigeria because of the economic situation and particularly as a result of a government measure forcing people to work on cocoa plantations on Bioko Island, where the capital is situated.

Last year Equatorial Guinea only produced 7,000 tons of cocoa and 20,000 tons of wood, while its coffee harvest was non-existent.

GABON

BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS 15-17 MARCH

Meets Minister of State

AB151937 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1900 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro and his Gabonese counterpart, Martin Bongo, held the first meeting of the Brazil-Gabon joint cooperation commission. At this meeting, both ministers said that in their opinion this stage of the meeting of the commission, which falls within the framework of the development of relations between Brazil and Gabon, is historical. According to the Brazilian minister, this meeting will enable a deep examination of bilateral cooperation. Mr Guerreiro added that southern countries must cooperate more than ever with each other in order to face the economic crisis.

Received by Rawiri

AB160745 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] The official visit of the Brazilian minister of foreign affairs to Gabon which began on Monday highlights the cooperation between Brazil and Gabon. The minister was received in audience yesterday by Georges Rawiri, first deputy prime minister. The Brazilian minister and his Gabonese counterpart, Martin Bongo, yesterday opened the first meeting of the Gabon-Brazil joint cooperation commission. The Brazilian minister of foreign affairs leaves Gabon tomorrow for Ivory Coast in continuation of his African tour.

Meets With President

AB162029 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The president of the republic, His Excellency Elhadj Omar Bongo received in audience today Ramiro Guerreiro, the Brazilian minister of foreign affairs. The Brazilian minister of foreign affairs is leading his country's delegation to the deliberations of the first session of the joint Gabon-Brazil commission for cooperation which opened yesterday in Libreville. These deliberations, which end tomorrow, mainly concern commerical and cultural exchanges and transport. Let us recall that Brazil is the third largest buyer of Gabonese oil after France and the United States.

Yesterday evening Minister of State Martin Bongo offered a dinner in honor of his guest and the Brazilian and Gabonese ministers took the opportunity to reaffirm the identity of their viewpoints on current, burning international issues, especially the world economic crisis, Namibian independence, and the Middle East crisis.

Before being received by the president of the republic, the Brazilian minister of foreign affairs visited the premises of the Trans-Gabon Railroad Bureau this morning. The Brazilian delegation leaves Libreville tomorrow afternoon for Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast, on the second leg of its African tour.

ANGOLA

ANGOP REPORTS CAPTURE OF CZECHOSLOVAKS

AB161151 Luanda ANGOP in French 1100 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Luanda, 16 Mar (ANGOP) -- South African-backed armed bandits on 12 March launched an attack against the town of Catumbela causing some damage to the paper factory, a store, and an electric plant. They looted and burned the store and the local inhabitants' property, mainly foodstuffs, medicine, and other products. During this operation, the enemies of the people of Angola abducted 64 Czechoslovak citizens including technical assistants and their families (women and children) as well as the management of the factory.

Such actions are made possible by the fact that Western countries support and act in collusion with South Africa, which acts as the vanguard and a safe base from which the bandits and traitors launch their attacks against the Peoples Republic of Angola.

ANGOP: PORTUGAL SHELTERING UNITA 'RINGLEADER'

AB151857 Luanda ANGOP in French 1405 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, 15 Mar (ANGOP) -- The propaganda campaign of the UNITA puppet group which preceded the sabotage of Lomaun Dam in Benguela last January was organized and prepared by counterrevolutionary elements of this group with the direct collaboration of South African agents. This was disclosed by ANGOP after much research on this issue. According to ANGOP, during that period Fernando Wilson dos Santos, the ringleader of this armed gang in the pay of South Africa, sent a list of Angolan traitors to a Portuguese state information agency and held talks with journalists on the contents of this document. ANGOP further disclosed that Wilson dos Santos, cited by the Portuguese press as being UNITA's head representative in Portugal, did not put his signature to the documents compiled in Lisbon with the collaboration of South African secret agents.

The signing of the documents, some of which are anti-Portuguese, is done by another agent of this puppet organization named Joseph Joao de Calvalho Dimuka. However, the originals of the various documents to which ANGOP has access bear the signature of Wilson dos Santos.

The Lomaun Dam sabotage, staged by South African commandos on the hydraulic system of this hydroelectric complex, resulted in the death of about 10 persons and cut off the electricity supply to some Angolan provinces. And as usual, the Angolan UNITA puppets claimed responsibility for the action. For the urgent reparation of the damages to this installation, which may cost several millions of dollars, Angola has sought the assistance of Portuguese enterprises already engaged in the reconstruction process.

In order to give the details of the Portuguese assistance in repairing these damages, Angolan Deputy Energy Minister Carlos Santos went to Lisbon where he held discussions with Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes and several other members of the Portuguese Government on the issue. During the discussions, the Portuguese authorities demonstrated a high sense of solidarity with the Angolan Government's preoccupations and expressed their readiness to help whenever necessary. Paradoxically, Wilson dos Santos, the UNITA representative in Lisbon -- as reported by Portuguese newspapers -- is registered at the headquarters of the Portuguese Government's foreigner department. According to information released to ANGOP by the officer in charge of internal administration, Wilson dos Santos has been authorized to live in Portugal as an Angolan citizen with a foreigner's identity card No N-7974/82.

During the past weeks, Wilson dos Santos was seen in Lisbon with journalists and some South African agents in addition to his frequent trips to other European capitals, especially Brussels, another important center of propaganda for the UNITA puppets.

This stepping up of activities shows that the U.S. and South African authorities are making a new attempt to bring up the problem of the Angolan puppets whom they want to hold up as a party in the southern African problem — as officials of the Reagan administration stated once -- at a time when Angola and South Africa are engaged in direct talks.

The Portuguese authorities allege that they do not have data at the foreign nationals department on Joseph Joao dos Santos Dimuka as the latter may enjoy Portuguese or Angolan citizenship, except for the visa which Wilson dos Santos possesses.

One can draw several conclusions from this brief report on anti-Angolan activities in Portugal. But it is becoming more and more obvious that Wilson dos Santos is in possession of card No 7974/82. In Portugal he neither hurts anyone nor does he do harm in giving dinners to journalists and politicians.

UNITA PROPOSAL PUTS UK IN 'DELICATE' POSITION

AB161537 Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 16 Mar 83

[By Jean-Luc Porte]

[Text] Luanda, March 16 (AFP) -- The proposal by the rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) movement to exchange some of its recently captured prisoners for seven British mercenaries held in Luanda has put the British Government in a delicate position, analysts said here today. London has already made several requests to the Angolan Government for the release of the seven, captured while fighting for another rebel movement, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, during the civil war following independence in 1975.

UNITA's move threatens to prejudice the "early release" of the mercenaries announced by Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge during a visit to London last month, diplomatic sources stressed. In fact, the sources said, UNITA's aim is apparently to worsen relations between Luanda and London, given Angolan sensitivity on the matter. They noted today's statement by the official news agency ANGOP that UNITA's capture of 64 Czechoslovaks last Saturday could only have been carried out "with the complicity and backing of Western countries to South Africa," which served as a rear base for Angolan "bandits and traitors."

Last December 4, the government Information and Propaganda Department put out an editorial in all the Angolan media entitled "Remember Angola," branding Britain's demand for the release of the mercenaries as "flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Angola." The editorial called the mercenaries "prostitutes of war" and said prospective mercenaries would "think twice before taking part in new massacres." The British move followed the release of two American mercenaries in a complicated exchange of prisoners held by UNITA, the Luanda government and South Africa.

The British Embassy in Luanda said there had been contact with several senior Angolan officials, but the decision to free the mercenaries could only be made by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. A British source said negotiations were hampered by British press campaigns for the release of the seven. The UNITA move is prejudicing a successful outcome to the foreign office's diplomatic manoeuvres, a diplomatic source added.

Furthermore, in making its proposals known in Paris, rather than London or Lisbon as usual, UNITA is seen to be touching a sensitive spot on relations between France and Angola. The Luanda government has recently expressed concern at the possible opening of a UNITA office in Paris, an Angolan source said.

JOHANNESBURG CITES REPORT ON UNITA SUPPORTERS

MB161654 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] A report from London says that the UNITA movement is getting support from five African countries, Saudi Arabia, and China in its struggle against Angola's Marxist government. A British journalist, Mr (Fred Bridgeland), says that he found irrefutable proof of this during a recent stay in the parts of Angola controlled by UNITA. The African countries involved are Zambia, Zaire, the Ivory Coast, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. Nigeria has apparently also been approached for help.

Turning to the war situation, Mr (Bridgeland) says UNITA controls one-third of Angola and is fighting for domination in another third of the country. (?During) his stay he travelled more than 36,000 km held by the organization's forces and had seen a government-held position on the Beguela railway overrun and the strategic lines blown up. Mr (Bridgeland) says the capture of 64 Czechoslovak citizens recently is part of UNITA's new strategy. By capturing many people from the communist states assisting the government and then offering to exchange them, UNITA wants to show the world that it is the real force in large parts of Angola. Czechoslovakia's Embassy in Lisbon has admitted that the people were captured when the industrial complex of Catumbela fell to UNITA forces. The organization said it caught 20 Portuguese at the same time.

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL ADDRESSES CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

MB161415 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Speech by Mozambique President Samora Machel at the opening of the 11th session of the Frelimo Party Central Committee in Maputo on 16 March -- recorded]

[Text] Comrade members of the Central Committee: Welcome to this 11th session of the Central Committee. In August last year we met for our 10th session. Today, 6 months later, we begin the 11th session, and during those 6 months we were all involved in activities that demanded hard work and the spirit of sacrifice. These sessions and these activities and these achievements are permanent characteristics of the militants of our party, particularly the members of our Central Committee. We would like, therefore, to salute you for your militant dedication in the fulfillment of the tasks that have been assigned to you in the defense, consolidation, and strengthening of our party and our socialist fatherland. Through you we would like to extend our salutations to all members of our glorious party who, in the various areas of activity, have known how to demonstrate their revolutionary militancy day by day.

Comrades, during the past 6 months our efforts have been centered mainly on the struggle to eliminate the armed bandits. The reorganization of our armed forces, the FPLM [Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique], which is still in progress, has enabled us to achieve positive and important successes. On two occasions the party leadership met in Nampula with the first provincial comrade secretaries, provincial military commanders, and officers of the FPLM. At these meetings we all made a profound and detailed analysis of our country's military situation, and together we worked out a plan designed to forcefully advance the process of liquidating the armed bands.

The details of our analysis stressed the continuing need to have a thorough knowledge of the social realities of our country, the economic and cultural realities of the development taking place in each district of our country, and in each region and each province. The details of the analysis revealed that we must constantly be among the people to learn their most profound and legitimate aspirations, to learn from them and to get our strength and inspiration from the people. During those meetings we emphasized that we can be strong in this struggle to eliminate the armed bandits provided that we can all be directed by the common thought so that we can continue the glorious task that we have before us. What task? The construction of a strong and prosperous Mozambique nation; a nation with a society which is not divided according to tribe, race, color of skin, and religion, but with a society of only Mozambicans.

As you may remember, we said at the 10th session of the Central Committee that thwarting the effort to build such a society is the main objective of the destabilization campaign being conducted by the South African racist regime against our country. This type of society, of which the People's Republic of Mozambique is an example, is the target of attacks, and the apartheid regime vainly tries to destroy it through the armed bands.

The strategy and tactics which we outlined during the Nampula meetings and the reorganization of the FPLM have begun to bear fruit. Such successes encourage our armed forces, the FPLM. We have to further develop our military strategies and tactics to totally liquidate armed banditry, a new phenomenon in our region. We have to create a climate of peace and tranquility, which our people demand so that they can build their happiness and prosperity.

The meeting on the outlook for the nation that we held in Chibuto has shown that our people can clearly and correctly see that the struggle against the armed bandits and the relentless fight against those who disturb Mozambique society go hand-in-hand. We went to the people once again, and the people gave us the answer. They expressed their total faith in the party and its leadership. However, it is necessary, absolutely necessary, that power be rigorously exercised.

SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY POLICE DETAIN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

MB161336 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Security police in Johannesburg have detained a foreign correspondent for questioning. South African (Bernard Simon), who writes for ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE ECONOMIST and THE FINANCIAL MAIL, was taken to John Voster Square police headquarters. He was told he had needed bail of 500 rand. A police officer who identified himself as Lieutenant Colonel (Olivier) said (Simon) was to be questioned about a possible charge of attempting to defeat the ends of justice. It is not clear if (Simon) has yet been released.

The questioning of (Simon) apparently began as police were searching the office of foreign correspondent (Allister Sparks). (Sparks') house was searched earlier today. (Sparks) was told the search was for notes on stories he wrote about the banned Winnie Mandela. Police Chief Mike Geldenhuys has confirmed the searches and says a docket will be forwarded to the attorney general.

SWAZILAND

QUEEN REGENT ADDRESS CALLS FOR UNITY, ELECTIONS

MB160800 Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati 1715 GMT 15 Mar 83

[Address by Swaziland Queen Regent Dzeliwe to assembled chiefs of the nation at royal residence in Lobamba on 15 March, read by authorized person Prince Sozisa -- recorded]

[Text] My fellow countrymen, her majesty has summoned you here so that she may express her condolences to you on the passing away of his late majesty, whom we greatly adored. It struck one speechless and despondency nearly took over at the realization of the stark fact that he was gone. So her majesty invited you, my countrymen, as her children to come here for an intimate talk. According to our own customs and traditions, when the king dies the queen mother remains behind holding the positions of both king and queen mother -- Indlovukazi.

My fellow countrymen, the king died without warning, and without any chance for us to seek to find a cure. It was so sudden; before we knew it he was gone. We do not know if he gave up on us. However, we believe that it was possibly our ancestors who recalled him in view of our transgressions.

My fellow countrymen, when the king has died it is usually a common practice that spiritual doctros in various districts are consulted to establish the cause of such an occurrence. This is expected of you, but before you embark on such an exercise please confer with the royal family for direction and guidance to avoid pitfalls that are in conflict with Lazidze's rules. This is, in short, why her majesty has called you here.

Perhaps some of you are trembling inside, fearing that she has summoned you here to discuss your errant ways. This is not so. She has just called you here to express her sorrow at what happened, as you can all see that we are now orphans. However, orphaned children, when their father has moved on, unite themselves as one person in their loss. They desist from pulling in different ways and directions, which produces beneficial results for them. What really pays good dividends is that the people unite and act as one person.

A man once realized that his days were numbered in this earthly abode, so he called his children to alert them to this fact and also to advise them about how to continue on in his absence. He sent one of his sons to go and cut thatching poles, specifying that there be 10 in number. Later, he sent another to do the same. The two returned with their bundles of thatching poles. At this stage, he asked one of them to break the poles. This person rapidly cracked each pole individually. He then asked the other one to tie together his poles into a firm, tight bundle. He then ordered the bundle to be broken in the same fashion as the individual poles. Wow, what a struggle! The poles would just not give in and break! There were still 10 poles. The reason they would not break was that they were united into one bundle.

Similarly, if you are united behind this monarchy of yours, nothing amiss will happen to you. Nothing amiss will happen to you. But if you abandon your monarchy, anything could happen to you. However, my dear Swazi people, I do trust that we have been together from olden times; you know the whole story. We are gathered here today, where we used to spend time with our late majesty; some of us really not important at all -- just juniors -- but today it is these juniors who are now addressing you and not the king, since we are now left with the queen mother. We now have to speak and advise on how things were done during the time of our late father.

My countrymen, it is a good thing even if you are bereaved -- this is a natural consequence of God's law -- that God will do the good thing and receive you and give you something which initially you don't like but in the end you find yourself in accord with. What really matters, my countrymen, is that you must remember at all times that you are Swazis wherever you may be. Whatever concerns my country I will get from the royal cattle byre and not from rumors that are whispered. The royal cattle byre is where I will get clarification and direction from the king or monarch. Rumors do not give the truth. Newspapers also have their own inventions about matters. Get it from the monarch.

Well, as an orphaned child I had better stop grieving. You will continue with your monarchy and avoid being a divided nation.

There is something else on the agenda. His late majesty had already arranged that there would be elections this year. The elections were to proceed according to our customs and tradition and not according to party political systems which are strange to our people. No campaigning and canvassing of voters is allowed.

Guard against people who ask you to vote for them and make you fantastic promises. That is not the way. The system of government they advocate is not for you. Their system of government has no place for the poor; it caters to the rich and speaks to the rich only, and does not care for you, the poor, nor bother about who you are and where you belong.

Our system here recognizes every individual equally. You can even go to the king to request that he loan you some cattle for your use and benefit. Sure, indeed the king will grant you some cattle with the proviso that you look after it well and reap the profits for your own keeping. In the Western party political system, the first thing they ask you when you make such a request is whether you have security to justify such a request.

Basically, my fellow countrymen, we are definitely headed for a general election, in accordance with his late majesty's demonstration of how we should conduct elections. Ours is a very straignt forward procedure and is not cumbersome at all.

Your Royal Majesty

ZAMBIA

REPORT CITED ON U.S. NUCLEAR ARMS FOR RSA

MB161708 Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 9 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Can it really be true that the United States of America can at this stage enter into a secret agreement with racist South Africa under which the apartheid regime would get American nuclear missiles? Leaders in Black Africa, especially those in the southern Africa region who face serious military threat from the racist regime, will be stunned to learn that this is what the United States has in fact done.

The lastest issue of "NES" magazine published in the German Democratic Republic has revealed that the United States and the racist regime signed the agreement in November last year. And the agreement stipulates that cruise missiles known as "Tomahawks" will be tested in South Africa and the missiles will remain in that country "until further notice." If the story is true (it has so far not been denied), then the United States is playing a dangerous game on the African Continent. The Reagan administration is aware that racist South Africa is Black Africa's enemy number one.

So why does the United States want to supply South Africa with nuclear weapons? It would be logical to conclude that the United States has finally decided that her only friend on this continent is the racist regime. It would also be foolish for any leader in Black Africa to imagine that the United States is supplying nuclear missiles to South Africa for use against the Soviet Union. If South Africa gets nuclear missiles, the United States can be certain that they will be used against independent African states which oppose her policy of apartheid.

The racist regime has already made it clear that it would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons against any nation to defend apartheid. Last year the South African deputy defence minister, H.J. Coetsee, told the American magazine NEWSWEEK that "as a country with a nuclear capability, it would be stupid not to use it if nuclear weapons were needed as a last resort to defend ourselves." He was referring to reports that South Africa has already manufactured the atomic bomb. So the United States is aware that the South Africans can use nuclear missiles to massacre the black race on the African Continent.

The Reagan administration should, therefore, tell Black Africa its real intentions on this continent. Does the administration want to defend apartheid? If so, let the United States make that point clear.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER DISAVOWS EDITORIAL ON NKOMO, BOTSWANA

MB161717 Harare THE HERALD in English 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The minister of information, posts and telecommunications, Cde Nathan Shamuyarira, last night issued the following statement:

"THE HERALD editorial of yesterday does not accord with government thinking in two aspects: The departure of the ZAPU leader who has betrayed his country is not the occasion to question the continued participation of ZAPU members in government. "It is rather the time to call upon patriots in ZAPU to close ranks with ZANU (PF) in order to achieve the unity of purpose and action that Joshua Nkomo did not want. The public should be reminded that the government does not run the papers of this country. They are run by an autonomous trust. Therefore the very strong criticism of the Government of Botswana was made by the paper and not the government. We are taking up the question of Joshua Nkomo's entry and stay in Botswana, and the issue of cross-border violations generally, with the Botswana Government through normal diplomatic channels."

JURISTS TO INVESTIGATE NKOMO ALLEGATIONS

AB161206 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 16 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 16 (AFP) -- The Association of African Jurists (Ajaf) said here today it will send a delegation to Zimbabwe to study the accusations of brutality by the Zimbabwean Army in Matabeleland, in southwest Zimbabwe. Ajaf said it also hoped to provide international public opinion with details of charges brought against "certain people who have been detained or arrested recently," including family members of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo who fled to Britain via Botswana at the weekend.

Ajaf said it had already had "constructive discussions" with the Zimbabwe ambassador to Paris, Ben Kufakunesu Jambga, concerning developments in southwest Zimbabwe. There, the Zimbabwean Army has reportedly killed about 1,000 civilians in its search for "dissident" former guerrillas who belonged to Mr. Nkomo's independence war army.

HARARE REACTS TO FIRST 'RADIO TRUTH' BROADCAST

MB170752 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Excerpts] A new clandestine radio station in apartheid-ruled South Africa has begun propaganda broadcasts into Matabeleland in an attempt to sow discord and confusion among the people. The new radio station, called "Radio Truth," began its broadcast at 1900 on Tuesday night aimed at people in parts of Zimbabwe affected by dissident activity. A radio monitor for Radio Netherlands in Holland says the new station operates in more or less the same frequencies as Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation's [ZBC] Radio Four and is an obvious attempt to supplant the station. It is believed that similar broadcasts will soon be launched under the titles Radio (Chukwadi) and Radio Matableland.

Informed sources in South Africa say the station's location may be in the Transvaal Province of the racist state. Apartheid-ruled South Africa has similar external transmissions aimed at supporting counterrevolutionary elements such as UNITA in Angola and the socalled MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] in Mozambique.

More on Reaction

AB170837 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 17 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, Mar 17 (AFP) -- A clandestine radio station apparently transmitting from South Africa has begun broadcasting to Zimbabwe's troubled Matabeleland Province, according to reports in the Zimbabwean media. The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation said the station, calling itself Radio Truth, was a South African propaganda effort similar to stations transmitting to Mozambique and southern Angola in support of rebel guerrilla movements there. The Zimbabwe Government, which charges that white-ruled South Africa wants to destabilize the black states of southern Africa, has said several times that Pretoria is trying to exploit the unrest in Matabeleland.

The ZBC quoted informed sources in South Africa as saying that Radio Truth, which started programs Tuesday night, appeared to be operating from that country's Transvaal Province bordering on Zimbabwe. THE HERALD newspaper in Harare carried a report that quoted a monitor for Radio Nederland in Holland as saying Radio Truth was an "obvious attempt" to supplant Zimbabwe's own new educational station, Radio Four. The clandestine station's signal was very close to the frequency of Radio Four, the PRESS TRUST said. Radio Truth's announcer was a woman with an English voice, it said.

The broadcast weapon was used extensively during the 1970's during the guerrilla war against white rule in this country, then Rhodesia. The Ian Smith regime set up a propaganda radio station that broadcast to Mozambique in an attempt to turn people of that country against Zimbabwean insurgents based there, and the Maputo-based nationalists of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe had their Voice of Zimbabwe in shortwave. The white regime tried to block the black population's listening to the Maputo broadcasts by encouraging the manufacture and distribution of radio receivers with FM bands alone.

Elsewhere in southern Africa, the anti-apartheid African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrillas of Namibia have their own shortwave broadcasts beamed from Lusaka, Zambia.